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FBIS-EAS-91-165 CONTENTS *26 August 1991*

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Further on SNC Meetings

Sihanouk Concerned Over U.S. Position *[AFP]* ... 1
Hun Sen Upset Over Rigidity on UN Plan *[AFP]* ... 1
Hun Sen Departs for Meeting in Phatthaya *[SPK]* ... 2
Hun Sen Arrives in Bangkok, Meets With Sihanouk *[SPK]* ... 2
Hun Sen Accepts Partial Demobilization *[AFP]* ... 2
Hun Sen Gives News Briefing in Phatthaya *[SPK]* ... 3
PRC, SRV Pledge To Promote Peace *[AFP]* ... 3
China, SRV, Thailand Agree To Urge Accord *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 25 Aug]* ... 4
KPNLF Officials: UN Force Necessary *[AFP]* ... 4
Phnom Penh Calls for Compromise at SNC Meeting *[Phnom Penh Radio]* ... 5
UN Military Team Visits Siem Reap Province *[SPK]* ... 6
Factions Urged to Respect Sovereignty *[Phnom Penh Radio]* ... 6
Sihanouk Calls for Disbandment of Armies *[Bangkok THE NATION 24 Aug]* ... 7
Regime Gives Sihanouk Accord Amendments *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 24 Aug]* ... 8
Military, Power Issues in Transition *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 24 Aug]* ... 9

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Kaifu, Gorbachev To Remain in 'Close Contact' *[KYODO]* ... 11
Government To Recognize Baltic States *[KYODO]* ... 11
    Sakamoto Comments on Baltics *[Tokyo TV]* ... 12
Official on Expectation for More Soviet Reform *[KYODO]* ... 12
    Nakayama Welcomes Gorbachev Move *[KYODO]* ... 12
Kaifu Meets Aides To Discuss Soviet Situation *[KYODO]* ... 13
NHK Interviews Soviet Charge d'Affaires *[Tokyo TV]* ... 14
Kaifu Asks Soviets To Clarify Control of Arsenal *[KYODO]* ... 14
    Appraises Dismantling of CPSU *[Tokyo TV]* ... 14
    JCP Condemns CPSU *[KYODO]* ... 15
Newspaper Editor Criticizes Yeltsin for Closings *[KYODO]* ... 16
Businessmen Hail Gorbachev Decision To Quit Post *[KYODO]* ... 16
G-7 Expected To Discuss Soviet Aid in London *[KYODO]* ... 17
SDPJ Calls for Economic Aid for Soviet Union *[Tokyo TV]* ... 17
France's Cresson Explains Criticism of Japan *[KYODO]* ... 17
LDP Opposes Punishment for Payout Recipients *[KYODO]* ... 18
Brokerages Said To Compensate Since 1983 *[KYODO]* ... 18
Ministry Cautions Sumitomo Trust for Compensation *[KYODO]* ... 18
Komeito Parliamentarians Back SDF Role *[KYODO]* ... 19
Group Returns From Visit to Soviet Islands *[KYODO]* ... 19
Watanabe Calls for Change of Prime Ministers *[KYODO]* ... 19
Broadcast Satellite Launched From Tanegashima ... 20
    Television Reports Countdown *[Naha TV]* ... 20
    Launch Deemed Success *[Tokyo TV]* ... 20

Mongolia

Demonstrators Demand Overthrow of MPRP *[Berlin ADN]* ... 21

PRC Trade Union Delegation Visits *[Beijing XINHUA]* 21
Former Leaders Indicted on Graft Charges *[KYODO]* 21

North Korea

Gorbachev's News Conference, Speech Reported *[Pyongyang Radio]* 21
High-Level Talks Delay Said Due to Cholera *[KCNA]* 22
More Aerial Reconnaissance Near MDL Reported *[KCNA]* 22
Imperialists Said 'Now Vilifying Socialism' *[KCNA]* 23
Ministry Views U.S. Stance on Denuclearization *[Pyongyang Radio]* 23
Colombian President Supports UN Membership Bid *[KCNA]* 24
Regional Journalists' Meeting Closes 23 Aug *[KCNA]* 24
WPK Central Committee Thank-You Note Viewed *[Pyongyang Radio]* 25
'Unswerving Loyalty' of Revolutionary Cited *[Pyongyang Radio]* 26
KCNA Reviews 24 Aug Pyongyang Press 31
KCNA Review of 26 Aug NODONG SINMUN 32

South Korea

North Reportedly Expands Scud Unit *[TONG-A ILBO 25 Aug]* 32
Japan Urged To Act Prudently in North Talks *[YONHAP]* 33
Kim Yong-nam Replaced by Minister for UN Speech *[TONG-A ILBO 24 Aug]* 33
Cholera Not Legal Grounds for Postponing Talks *[YONHAP]* 33
Seoul To Establish Organization for Exchanges *[YONHAP]* 33
North Korea Urged To Change View of South *[HANGUK ILBO 24 Aug]* 34
Council of Former World Leaders Meets in Seoul *[YONHAP]* 34
3-Way Trade With North, Southeast Asia Viewed *[CHUNGANG ILBO 19 Aug]* 35
Further on Upcoming Talks With Soviet Delegation *[THE KOREA HERALD 24 Aug]* 35
Seoul To Continue Aid to Soviet Union *[THE KOREA TIMES 25 Aug]* 36
Kim Tae-chung Cancels Trip to Soviet Union *[YONHAP]* 36
DLP Leaders View Soviet Events *[YONHAP]* 36
Exports to Soviet Union Projected at $800 Million *[YONHAP]* 37
Soviet Ocean Research Vessels To Call on Pusan *[THE KOREA TIMES 24 Aug]* 37
Dailies Report Kim Yong-nam Visit to PRC *[YONHAP]* 37
Albania, Seoul Sign Agreement To Normalize Ties *[YONHAP]* 37
Envoy Interviewed on Relations With Albania *[YONHAP]* 37
Representative Named for Libyan Waterway Ceremony *[YONHAP]* 38
Lucky-Goldstar Sells TVs to Czechoslovakia *[YONHAP]* 38
APEC To Discuss Basic Document *[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Aug]* 38
Assembly Head Cites Support for Asia-Pacific *[YONHAP]* 39
DLP Plans To Keep Single-Seat Constituency *[THE KOREA TIMES 24 Aug]* 39
Kim Tae-chung Urged To Sacrifice for Merger *[YONHAP]* 40
Government Sets 1992 Budget at 33.5 Trillion Won *[YONHAP]* 40
New Export Incentive for Small Firms Planned *[YONHAP]* 40
Schedule Set for Interest Rate Liberalization *[THE KOREA HERALD 24 Aug]* 41
Funds for Science, Technology To Be Increased *[YONHAP]* 41

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Confident on Gorbachev's Future Power *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 43
Ministry on USSR Events, PRC, Western Ties *[BERNAMA]* 43
Vietnam Refugees' Transfer To Begin Sep *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 20 Aug]* 43
Malay Support for Opposition Leader Viewed *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 24 Aug]* 44
Semangat 46 Candidate Wins Kelantan By-Election *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 45

Cambodia

'Remains' of MIA Serviceman Given to U.S. *[SPK]* 46
Hun Sen Receives U.S. Senator Kerry *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46
VOK Reports Sihanouk-Solomon Meeting 46
VOK Previews SNC Meeting in Phatthaya 47
Son Sann Admonishes Factions, Views USSR *[Radio VOK]* 47
    More on Interview *[Radio VOK]* 47
Radio Echoes Call for UN Force Presence *[Radio VODK]* 48
Failed Soviet Coup Linked With SNC Meeting *[Radio VOK]* 48

Laos

Gorbachev's Resignation as Party Leader Reported *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
Leaders Receive Greetings From USSR *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
Chinese Border Teams Meet in Vientiane 23 Aug *[KPL]* 49
Indochinese Mekong Committees End 15th Conference *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
Meeting on Agreements Held With German Delegates *[Vientiane Radio]* 50
Phoun Sipaseut Receives Libyan, Burmese Envoys *[KPL]* 50
Premier Khamtai Congratulated by Thai Counterpart *[Vientiane Radio]* 50
Rice Shortage Expected in Bokeo Due to Floods *[KPL]* 50

Philippines

Reportage on Bases Treaty Developments Continues 51
    Signing Awaits Letter From Bush *[AFP]* 51
    Aquino Statement on Bases Treaty *[Quezon City Radio]* 51
    Signing Scheduled for 27 Aug *[Manila Radio]* 58
Aquino on Gorbachev Communist Party Resignation *[Manila Radio]* 58
Senior Envoy Assigned to Embassy in Moscow *[MALAYA 24 Aug]* 58
Ministry Separates Political, Criminal Prisoners *[MALAYA 25 Aug]* 58

Thailand

Leaders React to Developments in Soviet Union 59
    Anan, Asa Send Messages *[Radio VOFA]* 59
    Foreign Affairs Official on Situation *[BANGKOK POST 26 Aug]* 59
    New Soviet Ambassador on Relations *[THE NATION 26 Aug]* 60
    Foreign Minister Meets New Envoy *[Bangkok TV]* 60
Prime Minister Attends Debate on Constitution *[Bangkok Radio]* 61
NPKC Chairman Softens Stand on Constitution *[BANGKOK POST 24 Aug]* 61
Party Attacks Draft Constitution Proposal *[THE NATION 26 Aug]* 62

Vietnam

Hanoi Reports Gorbachev Resignation From CPSU *[Hanoi International]* 62
Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador *[Hanoi Radio]* 63
Hanoi 'Courtship' of ASEAN Heats Up *[AFP]* 63
NHAN DAN Welcomes SNC Meeting in Bangkok *[Hanoi Radio]* 64
Do Muoi Speech at Provincial Congress 65
    Part One *[Hanoi Radio]* 65
    Part Two *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
    Part Three *[Hanoi Radio]* 70

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Evans Indicates Moves To Recognize Baltics *[Melbourne International]* 72
    More on Baltic States *[Melbourne International]* 72

Evans Welcomes Developments in Soviet Union *[AFP]* 72
Hawke Calls on EC To Save World Trade Talks *[Melbourne International]* 72

Fiji

3d Ranking Officer Resigns Due to Allegations *[AFP]* 72

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Leader To Seek UN Peace Force *[Melbourne International]* 73
Special Treatment of Rebels in Solomons Protested *[AFP]* 73

Further on SNC Meetings

Sihanouk Concerned Over U.S. Position

BK2608053091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Pattaya, Thailand, Aug 26 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), said here Monday that his chief concern in Cambodia's peace process was that the United States might block a possible compromise settlement among rival factions of the Southeast Asian nation.

"We are capable of achieving a consensus, but the difficulty will be to get the approval of our American friends," he said.

The 68-year-old prince was talking to reporters shortly before a crucial three-day meeting of the SNC to discuss a United Nations peace plan on Cambodia. The SNC is an interim body formed with representatives of the factions, Phnom Penh's Vietnam-allied government and a guerrilla alliance dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

The United States has said it would accept only limited modifications to the U.N. blueprint.

Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge, a radical Marxist group driven from power in Cambodia following a Vietnamese invasion almost 13 years ago, have strongly disagreed over clauses in the plan on military arrangements and the role of the U.N. during a transitional period.

But recently there have been signs that a possible compromise might emerge, particularly on at least partial demobilisation of the contending Armies.

Prince Sihanouk said he believed the factions could work out "counter-proposals" to the U.N. blueprint, drafted by Security Council permanent members—the United States, China, Soviet Union, France and Britain—both on military issues and the future role of the world organisation in Cambodia.

Both, Prince Sihanouk said, "are more flexible ... because their (respective) allies, China and Vietnam, have come to a mutual understanding and rapprochement."

"The Khmer Rouge and (Phnom Penh Prime Minister) Hun Sen are like the Chinese and the Vietnamese. They are more or less O.K. now," he said.

But, he continued, "The United States and Britain might say they don't appreciate our counterproposals."

The "Perm-Five" are holding meetings on Cambodia, also in this Thai beach resort, on Thursday and Friday.

Hun Sen Upset Over Rigidity on UN Plan

BK2508095691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Bangkok, Aug 25 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said here Sunday he was worried Phnom Penh's proposal to amend a U.N. peace plan may not be accepted because a "certain country" had adopted a rigid position.

"Some countries do not wish to see amendments to the peace plan," Hun Sen said after emerging from a working-lunch with Norodom Sihanouk.

Asked which country he was referring to, Hun Sen said: "I believe you know which country has adopted a rigid position, and do not wish to see any change (to the plan) at all."

Last week U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said: "The United States should not commit its resources, prestige and credibility in the (word indistinct) of a comprehensive solution among the Cambodians.

"I believe that any U.N. presence (in Cambodia) should be in the context of all elements of a comprehensive solution. We don't believe in taking any step with the final result still in doubt," Solomon said.

Phnom Penh has proposed amendments to certain clauses in the U.N. peace plan concerning demobilization of its Armed Forces during an interim period leading to a U.N.-organized general election in Cambodia.

It also expressed uncertainty over provisions governing the scope and powers to be given to the U.N. during that period.

Solomon's views contrasted with up-beat statements by representatives from Phnom Penh and the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, who attended preparatory talks here with the two non-communist guerrilla factions, to finalize arrangements for the forthcoming session of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Sihanouk Thursday said he hoped the four warring Cambodian factions would be able to formulate a "counter proposal" to the U.N. peace plan.

The prince said he believed the amendments to the original plan would be accepted by four of the U.N. Security Council members, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union, but not the fifth, the United States.

"There is a necessity for us in the SNC to acheive a compromise. I know that China, the U.K. and France are willing (word indistinct) follow the Cambodian solution," he said, adding "the remaining gap is Uncle Sam, I hope they will understand and I hope they will be flexible."

Hun Sen Departs for Meeting in Phatthaya

BK2508052191 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0446 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penn SPK August 25—A delegation of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of the State of Cambodia left here today to attend the formal SNC meeting to be held at the beach resort of Phatthaya, Thailand, from August 26-28.

The group, which comprises six SNC members of the State of Cambodia, was led by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

In a meeting in Phnom Penh with U.S. Senator John F. Kerry on August 21, Hun Sen said: "There would be a step forward and the Phnom Penh side is ready to make more concessions for an early peace to Cambodia." He stressed: "In case concrete measures must be taken to prevent the threat of the past calamity and the maintenance of troops pending a general election. Is an equitable measure." [last two sentences as received]

In another development, Prince Sihanouk was quoted by AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] as saying that he had met the Khmer Rouge for three hours, "and it seems they are more flexible, more willing to make the Phatthaya meeting a success".

The prince expressed his hope that all sides concerned would eventually accept the "compromise solution" to the peace plan.

"This means we accept the U.N. peace plan, but with some amendments in order to bring some satisfaction to Hun Sen's group, because may I repeat that we cannot ignore the demand of the group which is the most important."

The prince said that during the August 26-28 SNC meeting in Phatthaya he would try to "fill the gap" separating the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh.

Hun Sen Arrives in Bangkok, Meets With Sihanouk

BK2608070691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0426 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 26—Prime Minister Hun Sen and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin expressed their optimism Sunday over the peace talks due to open in Phatthaya Monday, reported an SPK correspondent from Bangkok.

Hun Sen, who is the head of the SNC [Supreme National Council] delegation representing the State of Cambodia, arrived in Bangkok Sunday Morning.

In their meeting shortly after the delegation's arrival in Bangkok they discussed the procedure of peaceful settlement on the basis of the Perm-Five document.

Hun Sen said he was optimistic that there might be good results in the Phatthaya peace talks.

The prime minister later had a luncheon with Prince Sihanouk at Central Plaza Hotel in Bangkok.

Hun Sen Accepts Partial Demobilization

BK2508131691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Phatthaya, Thailand, Aug 25 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said here Sunday he would accept a 40 percent demobilisation of Cambodia's rival Armed Forces.

The announcement, ahead of peace talks to end the 12-year-old Cambodia war, marked a shift by Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed Government, which had so far demanded that its Armed Forces remain intact.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), formed with representatives of Phnom Penh and the tripartite guerrilla coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, begins three days of talks Monday in this Thai beach resort on a United Nations peace plan.

Phnom Penh has opposed the plan's call for demobilisation of Cambodia's rival forces as well as clauses placing key ministries under U.N. control during an interim period leading to elections.

But Hun Sen told reporters shortly after arriving here "we accept to reduce the Armed Forces and (their stockpile of) weapons by 40 per cent."

This, he said, showed his government's readiness to compromise.

Asked whether he would be prepared to go further during the SNC negotiations taking place under the chairmanship of former Cambodian Monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, he added "everything is negotiable."

But, Hun Sen remarked "40 per cent is already too much."

Hun Sen said the remaining 60 percent of the fighting forces not to be disbanded should be regrouped in barracks where their weapons would be stored under the control of the U.N.

Phnom Penh's regular forces have been estimated at around 55,000 with an additional 100,000 in the regional forces and the militia.

The Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former radical Marxist rulers ousted by Vietnam in 1979, is believed to have about 15,000 guerrillas.

The two smaller non-communist factions allied to the Khmer Rouge total some 18,000 fighters, according to analysts.

Earlier Hun Sen, in an apparent reference to the United States, charged that "a certain country has adopted a rigid position" refusing to amend the U.N. plan.

"Some countries do not wish to see amendments to the peace plan," he said as he emerged from a meeting in Bangkok with Prince Sihanouk.

The United States, along with the four other permanent members in the U.N. Security Council—China, the Soviet Union, France and Britain—have drafted the U.N. blueprint.

Representatives of the five are meeting here Thursday and Friday.

The U.S. representative at the meetings, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon, pointed out earlier this week that there should be no substantial changes to the plan.

He also opposed any U.N. involvement to help maintain a cease-fire which went into effect at the beginning of July unless there were a peace settlement.

"The United Nations should not commit its resources, prestige and credibility in the absence of a comprehensive settlement among the Cambodians."

The Khmer Rouge, which was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands during its rule over Cambodia between 1975 and 1979, has initially insisted that the U.N. plan be fully implemented.

But earlier this week, in a position paper on military arrangements, it said it was prepared to negotiate changes to those arrangements.

Hun Sen Gives News Briefing in Phatthaya

BK2608070291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0428 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 26—The Cambodian Government has proposed to reduce the Armed Forces and weapons by 40 percent. This was stated by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at a press briefing Sunday evening in Phatthaya, Thailand, reports an SPK correspondent from Phatthaya.

He said the remaining 60 percent would be put into the cantonment area and weapons kept under the supervision of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and then left to the decision of an elected government, the Cambodian Government, to find a quick compromise.

He said the SNC meeting to be opened today was a crucial one because it was going to deal with the remaining issues relating to the Perm-five draft agreement, some parts of which need to be improved. The Phnom Penh Government's reservation about some points in the draft agreement did not mean a rejection of the framework documents which had already been accepted as a rule.

On the question of Cambodian sovereignty, he said the draft agreement has gone beyond the framework documents because it gives the special representative of the UN secretary general the right to have the final words while the framework document does not specifically mention it.

On the question of human rights he said the world should not be surprised by any change made by the Phnom Penh Government on the term of genocide. "When we raised the problem of genocide someone said that we did it to create an obstacle," he said adding that "now we are trying to compromise in order to find a solution."

PRC, SRV Pledge To Promote Peace

BK2408062891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Bangkok Aug 24 (AFP)—China and Vietnam pledged here Saturday to promote efforts by Cambodia's warring factions to restore peace to the Southeast Asian country, a Chinese official said.

The pledge came in a meeting between Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Dy Nien, a Chinese spokesman said.

Xu and Nien, who earlier this month held talks in Beijing on normalising Sino-Vietnamese relations and on Cambodia, met at the Chinese Embassy for consultations ahead of next week's peace talks in the Thai seaside resort of Phatthaya.

China is the main backer of a Khmer rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition, which has been fighting for more than 12 years to topple the government installed in Phnom Penh by Hanoi's invading forces.

"Both sides agree to promote efforts by the Cambodian factions to make progress," a Chinese diplomat said when briefing reporters on the 90-minute meeting between Xu and Nien.

The diplomat, Cambodia specialist Fu Xuezhang, said Xu and Nien were to be guests later Saturday at a dinner hosted for their two delegations by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin.

Xu and Nien will probably hold further talks here after meetings August 26-28 of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—the United States, China, the Soviet Union, France and Britain, Fu said.

Saturday's meeting came amid a flurry of last-minute consultations ahead of the SNC talks, which are to focus on clauses of a U.N. peace plan on the U.N. role in Cambodia and on military arrangements there up to elections.

Nien was to confer here Sunday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon, who will represent Washington at meetings of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, diplomats said.

Solomon, who discussed the peace process Friday with SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, is expected to hold talks Sunday with Xu, they said.

The SNC, a transitional authority to guide Cambodia to peace, comprises representatives of all four warring factions.

Phnom Penh has opposed clauses of the U.N. blueprint on disbanding Cambodia's rival armed forces and placing key ministries under U.N. control during the interim period pending elections.

The Marxist Khmer Rouge, which was driven from power in Cambodia when Vietnam invaded its southwestern neighbour, and its smaller allies in two noncommunist groups have demanded full implementation of the plan.

But the Cambodian Government and the Khmer Rouge have both said in recent days that they would show flexibility over the issue of military demobilisation at the forthcoming SNC talks.

China, SRV, Thailand Agree To Urge Accord

BK2508013891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] China, Vietnam and Thailand agreed last night they would encourage the four Cambodian factions to forge an agreement and resolve the 12-year conflict during their Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phatthaya starting tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin made the comment last night after a dinner meeting with Chinese and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Ministers Xu Dunxin and Nguyen Dy Nien.

Mr Xu urged the four warring factions "to forget the past."

He said that even though the Phnom Penh regime had made a number of proposed amendments to the November, 1990 peace agreement, Thailand, Vietnam and China as well as the international community can accept an agreement if forged by the four parties.

Mr Xu said the three countries would continue to encourage the Cambodians to seek a resolution according to the plan of the permanent five members of the United nations Security Council.

Mr Asa said that after Thailand had encouraged China and Vietnam to meet more often, the three countries are now able to meet together.

The meeting last night discussed the proposals of all the Cambodian factions.

Mr Asa said the Chinese and Vietnamese ministers told him that their normalisation talks, held yesterday at the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok, had made progress and were satisfying.

Thailand welcomes this progress because it would benefit the region, Mr Asa said.

"We had very good talks," Mr Nguyen Dy Nien said.

We have agreed and do hope that the upcoming meeting in Phatthaya will be a success. We hope that we can make a greater success this time (than the previous SNC meeting in Phatthaya in June).

Earlier China and Vietnam pledged yesterday to promote efforts by Cambodia's warring factions to restore peace to the Southeast Asian country, a Chinese official said.

The pledge came in a meeting between Mr Xu and Mr Nguyen Dy Nien.

"Both sides agree to promote efforts by the Cambodian factions to make progress," a Chinese diplomat said when briefing reporters on the 90-minute meeting between Xu and Nien.

The diplomat, Cambodia specialist Fu Xuezhang, said Xu and Nien were to be guests later yesterday at a dinner hosted for their two delegations by Mr Asa.

Xu and Nien will probably hold further talks after the SNC meeting from tomorrow to Wednesday and that to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—the United States, China, the Soviet Union, France and Britain—Fu said.

Yesterday's meeting came amid a flurry of last-minute consultations ahead of the SNC talks, which are to focus on clauses of a UN peace plan on the UN role in Cambodia and on military arrangements there up to elections.

Nien is to confer today with US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon, who will represent Washington at meetings of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, diplomats said.

KPNLF Officials: UN Force Necessary

BK2508112891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 25 Aug 91

[By Robert Birsel]

[Text] Thmar Puok, Cambodia, Aug 25 (AFP)—Cambodia needs United Nations peacekeeping troops to neutralise a deadly cocktail of too many guns and too much poverty, guerrilla leaders said.

Such troops are essential to guarantee the protection of some 350,000 Cambodian refugees who will return to their country from neighbouring Thailand after the 12-year-old civil war is settled, they said.

The make up and extent of a U.N. role in post-war Cambodia is expected to be one of the main topics of discussion as the four rival factions once again sit down to negotiate in the Thai resort of Phatthaya on Monday.

"We must have U.N. soldiers here on the ground, along the roads which the refugees will travel, not just officials sitting in air-conditioned offices," senior non-communist guerrilla commander General Khem Sophorn of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE] recently.

The guerrillas and Thai officers working on the border said a mixture of dire poverty and a proliferation of weapons has made vast areas of the country very insecure.

"There are lots of bandits inside Cambodia now. It's dangerous," said a Thai officer based on the border who monitors the situation inside Cambodia.

"Everyone's got guns—the soldiers of the four factions, their village militias and the villagers themselves—and they're all dirt poor," he said.

The guerrillas said their zone of control in this northwestern corner of the country is safe but the no-man's land deeper inside the country, particularly the remote rural and forest areas where the guerrillas operate but do not administer and where the Phnom Penh Government has no presence, is very unsafe.

But the guerrillas admit it is not just the buffer zones between the areas they control and those controlled by Phnom Penh that are dangerous.

One officer said nine traders were killed last month near the border in a dispute over conflicting business interests.

"A U.N. force is very important," said the director of the KPNLF's civilian programmer Ngeth Sophon.

"Repatriation of refugees should not start before a U.N. security force is in place," he said. "The presence of foreigners, westerners in particular, gives the people hope, it makes them feel secure."

Relief officials working in the border camps just inside Thailand also expressed concern about the safety of the returnees.

"The safety of the people going back will be jeapordised more by banditry and lawlessness than by any official armed elements," said one relief official. "There's got to be some way—international, cambodian, whatever—of establishing law and order."

Phnom Penh Calls for Compromise at SNC Meeting

BK2608034791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "The Goodwill of the State of Cambodia's Party"]

[Text] On the morning of this Sunday, 25 August, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Council of Ministers, and a delegation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] left Phnom Penh for the Kingdom of Thailand in order to attend the official meeting of the SNC to be held in Phatthaya from 26 to 28 August.

As always in the past, the SOC's party has again brought with it genuine goodwill and many new initiatives and is ready to make as many concessions as needed to the other Cambodian parties with the sole desire of breaking through the deadlock in the Cambodian solution to quickly end the misery and suffering of the Cambodian people.

During this trip to Phatthaya, the SOC delegation will firmly tackle the tasks assigned to it by the 13th session of the party Central Committee, that is, it will strive to promote the process toward quickly achieving an overall solution to the Cambodian problem in order to bring about long-lasting peace and stability and ensure that the vital interests of the nation and people will not be threatened by the catastrophe of the past.

At the same time, the SOC delegation will convey to the SNC the sacred request of the SOC National Assembly, which represents the Cambodian people's aspirations, for the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to continue its work actively and to achieve more concrete results on the basis of mutual trust and the common ideals of national reconciliation in order to end the protracted conflict and rebuild the country as an independent, peaceful, democratic, neutral, and nonaligned state. Moreover, four days ago, that is on 21 August, the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers clearly stressed to U.S. Senator John Kerry that the Phnom Penh side was ready to make concessions to quickly achieve peace for the Cambodian people.

All these are proof of the genuine goodwill of the SOC, which always places the Cambodian people's interests above all else.

Therefore, whether this SNC meeting will be successful or not, it depends on whether the other Cambodian factions will adopt a compromise and flexible stance.

On this occasion, our people would like to appeal to the other Cambodian factions to kindly take a realistic attitude and place national interets and those of the people above their own so as to quickly reach a decisive agreement on an overall solution to the Cambodian problem.

Our people would like also to appeal to the international community and countries concerned to kindly make all possible contributions to promoting the results reached by the SNC in Phatthaya and Beijing and to create favorable conditions for the coming SNC meeting to achieve a permanent result and [words indistinct] all agreements reached by the SNC.

Our people would like to emphasize that, whatever the circumstances, there must be clear measures for preventing the recurrence of the past catastrophe. One of the most appropriate measures in this connection is the preservation of the Armed Forces until the election is held.

UN Military Team Visits Siem Reap Province

BK2508064591 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0424 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Aug (SPK)—The UN military mission led by Ghanaian General Timothy Dibuama on Saturday [24 August] visited Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province to determine the personnel necessary for supervising the voluntary and unlimited cease-fire and the cessation of outside military aid.

Since its arrival on 23 August, the delegation has worked with leaders of the Cambodian Defense Ministry before going to the field. It went to the command post of Division 286 and other military units as well as the Samraong District seat.

(?At) Division 286, the 12-member delegation listened to the report by the unit's commander on violations by the other side since the acceptance by all warring Cambodian sides of a voluntary and unlimited cease-fire. The unit commander said the other side carried out succesive provocative activities, seized by force our positions, fired hundreds of shells on our positions, and planted mines. The enemy forces intruded into our zones to steal property and the people's cattle, thus constantly creating tension, added the commander.

The delegation also took note of the positions into which the other side intruded for its mining and plunder activities, especially at Tonle Sar. The delegation also visited the [word indistinct] and many positions of the State of Cambodia's Army.

In Samraong District, the delegation listened to the report by the local people's committee on the ambitions of the other side, which has not rigorously respected the cease-fire unanimously adopted last June at the meeting in Phatthaya. These violations have caused a lot of difficulties to the people's daily life, stressed the report.

The UN military mission (?also visited) the Angkor Wat temple and the Bayon, which the State of Cambodia's authorities have done everything to preserve for more than 12 years.

Factions Urged to Respect Sovereignty

BK2308150391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "It is imperative to strictly respect Cambodia's sovereignty"]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, which was created this year, began its work at the former Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok on 22 August. This secretariat—composed of six members, three representing the State of Cambodia and three others representing the other three Cambodian factions—held consultations a week before the SNC session. The main topics raised for discussion by the SNC Secretariat consist of the remaining issues to be discussed by the SNC at its forthcoming formal meeting in Phatthaya. Among these remaining issues, the respect for the national sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people was the most important key question of utmost interest to both the meeting and the international community at large.

What in fact is national sovereignty? In his interview with an Italian journalist, Comrade Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, clearly stressed that sovereignty means full independence. In other words, it means that there should be no authority, organization, or individual other than the institution that represents that sovereignty.

Article 2 of the UN Charter provides for seven principles which regulate UN activities. Of the seven, one principle clearly stipulates that the United Nations has no right to make any resolution on questions concerning the sovereignty of other countries.

It is for this reason that the State of Cambodia has once and again proposed that the Cambodian factions and all countries concerned should strictly respect Cambodia's sovereignty. So far, however, the Cambodian opposition factions together with a number of countries have repeatedly demanded that the existing government in Cambodia be dismantled and that the UN Transitional Authority, UNTAC, be brought in to replace it. This violates not only the sovereignty of the State of Cambodia, but the Charter of the United Nations as well. It constitutes a violation and abuse of the UN Charter, an infraction of various principles, and a breakdown of the precious UN activities provided for in Article 1 of the UN Charter.

Article 1 of the UN Charter clearly specifies the objective of the United Nations, which is to maintain international peace and security against all aggressive acts and to promote interstate friendly relations on the basis of equality and the right to self-determination of the people.

It is widely known that last September, 1990 the opposing Cambodian factions agreed to establish the SNC recognized by the United Nations as a symbol of Cambodia's sovereignty during the transitional period, that is, the period from the signing of an agreement for the political settlement of the Cambodian problem to the formation of a new government. Therefore, if the SNC already symbolizes Cambodia's sovereignty, no individual or organization should be allowed to stay above the SNC to run affairs or make decisions in its place at all. Consequently, both the arrangement for the elections and the implementation of agreements should fall under the authority of the SNC. As far as the special representative of the UN secretary general is concerned, his role is only to control the implementation of the Paris agreement and supervise the general elections in Cambodia. Furthermore, if the SNC issues any decision, that decision should be respected.

It is in this sense that the State of Cambodia has demanded that both the political and military status quo be maintained because, in point 2 of the final declaration of the SNC in Phatthaya dated 26 June of this year, it is clearly stated that the national flags and national anthems of all factions would be preserved until general elections.

In short, the State of Cambodia faction's insistence on the maintenance of both the political and military status quo does not mean that the State of Cambodia faction opposes or rejects the UN peace plan, as is slanderously alleged by other factions, especially the Son Sann faction. It is made purely in deference to the decision of the SNC of Cambodia—which symbolizes Cambodia's sovereignty—and in homage the UN Charter only. Although the State of Cambiodia faction has announced that it is ready to make many more concessions to the Cambodian opposition factions, it cannot make any on the question of preventing the recurrence of the danger from the past and the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty. This is a matter of life or death for the Cambodian people and a universal principle of mankind.

For all these reasons, our people would like to reiterate that in order to arrive at a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, it is imperative to strictly respect Cambodia's sovereignty.

Sihanouk Calls for Disbandment of Armies

BK2408012891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Aug 91 p A4

[Text] Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he wants the full demobilization of factional forces with a national army trained by the United Nations replacing them, a call similar to the US position.

Sihanouk expressed this view during a luncheon meeting yesterday with US Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon, who later said that Washington shared the same view on the issue.

Solomon said after the meeting that the prince had clarified to him two issues on the sole sovereignty of the unified Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) during the transitional period, and the military demobilization. He said he found the explanations "very helpful."

On disbanding the factional troops, the prince, who was unanimously elected SNC president, said his "ultimate goal" was the "full demobilization" and the creation of a "clean new young national army" after the general elections, according to the US secretary. The army—both its officers and soldiers—would be trained by the United Nations.

The prince saw the "full demobilization of the factional forces as the ultimate goal and then the creation of this new young national army trained by the UN," according to Solomon.

The tripartite Cambodian resistance especialy the pro-China Marxist Khmer Rouge initially stuck to the UN peace framework plan that calls for a total disarmament and troop demobilization, but they recently agreed to the Phnom Penh Government's insistence on disbanding the troops partially.

Washington has opposed the Phnom Penh's position considering it as an amendment or a deviation from the framework plan, which was worked out last August by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. It remained firm on a comprehensive political settlement within the UN framework, but agreed to have some modification of the November draft peace agreement which however has to be consistent with the UN blue-print.

Solomon stressed that the UN peace plan to which all Cambodian parties were committd called for full demobilization, and that it did not spell out "the phased arrangmenet." But he said it was an area "where there can be discussion and some modifications of the plan" when the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council hold talks next week in Phatthaya following the new round of SNC meeting beginning on Monday.

Asked about the US position on the issue, he said the United States has first to see what the SNC has agreed to, "but we all have taken a position that one way to ensure the security for Cambodian people is to build a new national army, and hopefully everyone will agree to that."

Asked if Washington would permit the draft peace agreement to be amended, Solomon cited Sihanouk as saying that that was the work of the SNC. He said the prince "emphasized that when the Perm Five come to Phatthaya on (August) 29 we will see what consensus is a greed upon by the SNC. He did not go into further details."

Sihanouk was also quoted as satying that he wanted to see the SNC functioning as the sole "legitimate source of authority and sovereignty of Cambodia" and wanted the international community to deal with "the SNC alone" and not the other administrations. Both Phnom Penh and the resistance have kept their governments intact, despite the existence of the 12-member Supreme National Council, comprising equal delegates from the two rival sides.

During the three-hour lunch, Solomon said the prince gave a positive response to his question whether he would run for the office of the president. He confirmed that he would and viewed himself as "the least bad candidate who would be running for office," according to the US secretary.

Solomon will represent the United States during the Aug 29-30 meeting of the Perm-five. The others are Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Xu Dunxin, France's Director General for Asian Affairs Department Jean-David Levitte, Britain's deputy under Secretary of State Sir John Coles, and the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev.

Vietnam, meanwhile, has sent Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Nguyen Dy Nien to Thailand to "facilitate" the three-day Cambodian meeting, which will start on Mondya afternoon. Nien and his Chinese counterpart Xu Dunxin will meet today for the sixth round of efforts to restore the full normalization of Sino-Vietnamese ties, which were severed after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 and installed Phnom Penh Government, replacing the China-backed Khmer Rouge.

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin will host a dinner tonight for Xu and Nien. Asa will also hold a dinner in Phatthaya on Wednesday for all the Cambodian leaders and Perm Five delegates.

Regime Gives Sihanouk Accord Amendments

BK2408014391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Aug 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Phnom Penh Government has given Prince Norodom Sihanouk details of amendments it wants made to the November 26, 1990 draft peace agreement.

These exclude a United Nations role in reducing weapons held by the warring factions before elections.

Phnom Penh also wants to exclude the UN from having control of the weapons of the factions after they have regrouped and cantons are formed when a "voluntary" cease-fire pact is signed.

Informed sources told the Bangkok Post that Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen submitted details of the amendments to the prince on July 22 in Beijing.

Phnom Penh's proposed amendments are expected to be discussed during the Supreme National Council's [SNC] second meeting to be chaired by Prince Sihanouk starting on Monday in Phatthaya.

During the first SNC meeting in Phatthaya, the Cambodians managed to resolve a number of issues and agreed to an unlimited cease-fire linked to the cessation of foreign arms supplies; to headquarter the SNC in Phnom Penh and to skirt the issue of the SNC's chairmanship by making the prince a "convener" of SNC meetings.

Previously, Phnom Penh refused to allow Prince Sihanouk to be chairman unless Hun Sen was made vice-chairman—a stand rejected by the Khmer Rouge.

During a follow-up informal meeting of the SNC in Beijing, Hun Sen agreed to Prince Sihanouk being SNC chairman in exchange for his decision to resign from all posts in the resistance and a commitment to run in the elections as an independence.

In a nutshell, what remains to be resolved in Phatthaya this coming week is the "military arrangements" and the relationship between the SNC and the UN.

The Khmer Rouge had previously demanded the full implementation of the UN peace plan while Phnom Penh has objected to certain clauses which would lead to the dismantling of its Armed Forces and the placement of key ministries under UN control.

But both the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime this week have said, however, that they are prepared to compromise and be more flexible in the upcoming meeting.

Following the informal SNC meeting in Beijing, Prince Sihanouk told representatives of the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council that he had repeatedly asked Hun Sen to give him written details of proposed amendments, the sources said.

But Hun Sen had asked him to wait until the Phatthaya meeting. Prince Sihanouk told the Perm-five representatives that he expects the text from Hun Sen to be the working document for the second meeting.

Sources said Phnom Penh wants deleted a section of the November draft dealing with military arrangements, which calls for the UN to be involved in the reduction of arms of the warring factions.

That section states that the UN shall engage in a process of reducing arms in a manner to stabilise the security situation and establish confidence of the conflicting parties within a specific timeframe.

The November draft also states that the UN will take necessary measures concerning the return to civilian life of all military forces. Phnom Penh also wants this clause deleted, the sources said.

In another article of the November draft, any military unit of the factions not yet in designated cantons shall move to areas for regrouping established and administered by the UN.

Phnom Penh wants the reference to regrouping areas being established and administered by the UN deleted.

The sources said another article states that once fighting units are in cantons, they are to give up their arms, ammunition and other equipment for stockpiling initially under their supervision.

But after the UN has confirmed that all armed forces are in cantons, their weapons, ammunition and equipment shall be given up to the UN team which will guard it.

While Phnom Penh agrees that the UN can monitor the stockpiled weapons, it wants to delete the reference that the weapons be placed under UN control.

Accoridng to one source, the Phnom Penh proposals appear no different to that which they previously proposed during the Jakarta meeting of June 2-4 this year.

At that meeting, Phnom Penh insisted that in the Agreement on the Comprehensive Political Settlement reference to genocide be amended to read as follows:

"Recognising that Cambodia's tragic recent history requires concrete measures to asure the protection of human rights and to prevent the recurrence of the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past."

Regarding human rights, Phnom Penh demanded the setting up of an internatonal tribunal to condemn those responsible of crimes of genocide in Cambodia in conformity with the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes of Genocide.

But since then, Phnom Penh appears to have dropped the genocide issue.

In Jakarta, Phnom Penh also insisted that only Cambodian citizens who have not acquired foreign citizenship be eligible to vote and that only the political parties represented in the SNC "which have declared their opposition to the return of the genocidal regime" may take part in elections.

The detailed proposed amendments on military arrangements submitted to Prince Sihanouk on July 22 do not differ much form its previous position in Jakarta where it stated:

"Owing to the fact that the military question is intimately linked to the concrete measures to prevent the return of the genocidal regime, we feel that the confinement of the armed forces to the cantonment areas with their weapons stored onsite during the interim period would be sufficient to allow the elections to proceed in a peaceful and secure climate and in a neutral political environment."

With regards to the role of the UN in relation to the SNC, Phnom Penh is not prepared to release the control of its five key ministries, Foreign, Finance, Interior, Information and Defence to the UN.

It proposed that the four factions maintain their respective administrations and that the UN works through the individual administrations.

The sources said that in Beijing Prince Sihanouk thought that since Hun Sen continued to refuse to dismantle his Army, he may propose a "reduction of effectiveness" of the four Armies in such a way that they can be kept and at the same time be under the control of the UN.

Prince Sihanouk expressed fears that dismantling would result in clandestine armies emerging with no one in control, the sources said.

In another article dealing with the verification of foreign forces and their "non-return," the November draft states that all information concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces be submitted to the UN.

This information should include details such as total number, organisation and deployment of the forces as well as exact location of weapons, withdrawal plans including preciese routes of withdrawal and border points and timing of departure.

Phnom Penh wants reference to these details deleted and replaced with "the UN shall take the appropriate measures to verify the actual presence of any foreign forces in Cambodia," the sources said.

Military, Power Issues in Transition

BK2408025591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Aug 91 p 7

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary," entitled "A Matter of Law and Order"]

[Text] So far so good, but the big issues have been left for later. This is how most observers see the present Cambodian peace process.

People tend to be cautious when it comes to Cambodia. However, the big issues—how to deal with the military situation and the question of power during the period of transition—cannot, and should not, be avoided much longer. These issues are in store for next week's meeting of the four Cambodian factions in Phatthaya.

In the past few weeks, everybody has been talking about compromises and being nice. But Phnom Penh and the Parties of Democratic Kampuchea (the PDK or Khmer Rouge) still have opposite views when it comes to disarming troops.

The "military question" was already a problem when the Perm-five were trying to arrive at a framework they could all feel comfortable with. While in New York a year ago, Soviet delegates said it was unlikely that Phnom Penh would ever accept a full disarmament.

The official explanation is that the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF) have been the only one to fight against the feared Khmer Rouge. If they disappear, who will protect the country against the Khmer Rouge?

The Khmer Rouge do not trust the people in power in Phnom Penh, whom they still consider as puppets of the Vietnamese. They insist on total disarmament under UN control. And it should not be a token control, they say. In an August 12 radio broadcast, the Khmer Rouge said the Khmer population would be happy to welcome UN personnel "because without UN supervision the cease-fire and the end of military assistance can never succeed."

The PDK also wants the UN to supervise "the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces."

In Phatthaya last June, the PDK proposed that the first batch of at least 500 to 700 UN supervisors should be sent to Cambodia. In an August 10 radio broadcast, the PDK said two more batches should also be sent "so as to have enough UN personnel to have a UN provisional administration with military and civilian section."

Khmer Rouge propaganda and radio programmes are not directed toward Western observers who, in the eyes of the PDK leadership, are not very important. The Voice of Democratic Kampuchea broadcasts for the Khmer Rouge rank and file and, to a lesser degree, toward the Khmer population. The frequent accusation that Vietnam keeps sending troops and weapons into Cambodia must be viewed in this context.

At a time when all Armies in Cambodia tend to relax and dream of peace rather than war, the PDK leadership obviously wants to maintain vigilance and readiness among its soldiers. The Voice of Democratic Kampuchea also encourages young conscripts to abandon the CPAF.

There is a military cease-fire in Cambodia, and it is relatively well respected. But the propaganda war is more vibrant than ever.

Neither the Sihanoukists nor the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] are going to stand in the way of a peace settlement. It is not their objective, and they lack the ways and means to impose their views.

So what does Phnom Penh want this time?

Some well-informed sources believe that the "two keys" option would be acceptable as long as police units (especially the elite A3) would be able to function normally. The "two keys" option means that regular troops would be regrouped in barracks, under UN supervision, with weapons nearby, and that approval from two authorities—Phnom Penh and the UN—would be necessary to have access to war materials.

The question of interim power is no less sensitive. It is clear that the PRK [People's Republic of Kampuchea] is reluctant to give away too much power and control, since no one is certain which party would win the elections. If the contest is about personalities, there seems to be little doubt, at least in Cambodia, that Prince Sihanouk will be the winner. But where does that leave the other factions, by then political parties?

One may argue that the question of power during the interim period—or even the military question—is of no great importance. It would indeed be very difficult for the various faction leaders to convince their men to go back to war. Armies are falling apart, are disintegrating. And the only faction—or party—with the semblance of an ideology is the Khmer Rouge. And that would last only as long as the present leadership can keep its control over the PDK. (This fact is recognised by the PDK, which has always been most adamant in resisting any calls for change at the top as long as the struggle continues.)

Once Cambodia is fully in peace, allegiances may shift pretty fast, and the will to fight may be replaced by the desire to make the best of life. It is quite possible that a couple of years from now FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], KPNLF, PRK and PDK will all be labels of the past. There are dozens of Khmers who want to start new political parties.

As for those who fear the so-called "red" solution, the question to be asked is "Who is red in this business?" The PRK? Well, it calls itself a Marxist/Leninist party. After years of scrutinising the PRK, I came away with the conviction that the party is as Marxist/Leninist as George Bush is a broccoli lover. Forget the words, the labels, the ritual.

On April 17 this year I attended the annual celebration of the "victory against imperialism" in Phnom Penh. Yes, they do commemorate the event of 17 April 1975—the day the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh. An American colleague and myself were apparently the only persons to be there voluntarily. We asked to attend. Everybody else was on duty. And notably they could not wait to get out of the theatre. People believe in the party because it is a necessary step toward positions, jobs and advantages.

The aging communist parties of China and Vietnam may not like what is coming to Cambodia—a dismantling of the socialist system. They would probably prefer a one-party system, with some key role for the state.

But the world has changed. What if it made no difference who controls Cambodia during the interim period or what happens to the various Armies? A matter of grave concern is the security of the Cambodian citizens, but this has nothing to do with politics. It's a matter of law and order.

Cambodians may very much need the UN—not only to ensure a free and fair election, but also to guarantee civil peace in a land where weapons are more plentiful than rice seeds.

Japan

Kaifu, Gorbachev To Remain in 'Close Contact'

OW2208160291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1525 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 22 KYODO—Reinstated Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday he plans to meet Friday with leaders of the nine republics willing to join the new Union treaty, three days after a scheduled signing ceremony was forcefully preempted by an abortive coup.

Gorbachev made the remark in a telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Gorbachev said he plans to discuss political and economic issues with the leaders, including problems of food and fuel supplies, and finances, the official said.

Gorbachev had been scheduled to return to Moscow Monday from a Crimean vacation to preside over a treaty signing when a group of eight hard-liners engineered his temporary overthrow.

The treaty was to have given greater powers to the Soviet republics.

In the 20-minute phone call, Kaifu and Gorbachev agreed to take advantage of the "new political situation" following the foiled coup to improve bilateral relations.

In their second telephone conversation since Kaifu assumed office two years ago, the two leaders also agreed to stay in close contact.

The two met for the first time in April when Gorbachev became the first Kremlin leader ever to set foot in Japan. They talked again after the London summit of seven major industrialized nations last month.

Neither meeting, however, achieved major advances in a thorny territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan, that has been an obstacle to improved relations for over four decades.

Japan has declined to complete a peace treaty with the Soviet Union until the dispute is resolved.

"I hope that the new political situation will create an environment in which we can enjoy speedy progress toward complete normalization of relations," Kaifu was quoted saying.

He also expressed hope that Gorbachev would take advantage of the new political situation following the failed coup in order to expand perestroyka reforms and new thinking diplomacy, the official said.

"Leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries are prepared to offer assistance to promote perestroyka reforms, freedom, and democracy in your country," Kaifu was quoted saying.

Kaifu credited the coup's collapse to Gorbachev's dedicated efforts during his six years in the Kremlin to pursue perestroyka reforms.

Gorbachev said that the coup's defeat demonstrated that even if the Soviet citizens face difficulties, they are committed to promoting democracy.

He thanked Kaifu for his display of solidarity, and said he hoped to maintain personal contact.

Government To Recognize Baltic States

OW2608033091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Japan said Monday it plans to extend diplomatic recognition to the three Baltic states seeking independence from the Soviet Union.

The announcement signifies a major policy switch by the Tokyo government, which had previously declined to establish a clear position on the bid by the three states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—to establish their independence. They were made part of the Soviet Union in 1940.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told a press conference, "Japan, taking into consideration the circumstances under which the three Baltic countries were incorporated into the Soviet Union, supports peaceful independence that reflects the strong wishes and free will of the citizens" of the Baltic states.

"We hope for its early realization," he said, reading from a prepared statement.

Sakamoto indicated that Japan will establish diplomatic relations with the three states soon after they achieve independence.

The top government spokesman said Japan is still evaluating the situation of other Soviet republics that have stepped up claims of independence in the aftermath of last week's failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

On Saturday the parliament of the Ukraine, the second-largest among the Soviet union's 15 republics, declared independence and called a referendum for December 1 to ratify its vote.

Georgia has also declared it is on the road to independence.

Sakamoto drew a parallel between the Soviet Union's annexation of the Baltic states and the World War II takeover of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido which are claimed by Japan, but he said it was not immediately clear whether their expected independence would help Japan win back the islands.

The dispute over the islands, referred to in Japan as the "northern territories," has prevented Japan and the Soviet Union from establishing a peace treaty following the war, and have blocked any substantial increase in Japanese economic assistance.

"Everyone knows that Stalin unilaterally annexed" the Baltic states, said Sakamoto.

"The historic circumstance are very similar to that of the northern territories, which have been a major defect in the Soviet Union's new-thinking diplomacy," Sakamoto said.

He said Japan had been reluctant to establish a clear position on the independence of the Baltic republics in the past because there had been little chance for the three states to achieve peaceful independence.

Sakamoto Comments on Baltics

OW2608092591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] A decision has been made in the Soviet Union to dissolve the Communist Party, which has been charged with the nucleus of state power, and moves by the republics to seek independence from the union have gained force.

At this juncture, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto told a news conference this morning that the Japanese Government supports the independence of the three Baltic states and looks forward to its early materialization. He thus officially stated for the first time that Japan intends to formally recognize the three Baltic states.

[Begin Sakamoto recording] In the rapid changes in the political situation in the Soviet Union, moves in the three Baltic states in pursuit of independence have been stepped up. Taking into consideration the circumstances that led to incorporating the three Baltic states into the Soviet Union, Japan supports peaceful independence, which reflects the strong desire and free will of those people. We hope for the early materialization of independence, and in that event, Japan, of course, will recognize the states and intends to make a study without missing the opportunity. [end recording]

At the news conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto also said that the three Baltic states were annexed to the Soviet Union by Stalinist expanisionism, and their annexation resembled the northern territories issue in view of their historical particulars, adding that the Japanese Government expects that the indepenence of the three Baltic states from the Soviet Union will lead to the return of the northern territories to Japan.

Official on Expectation for More Soviet Reform

OW2508034991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Japan expects further Soviet reforms in the wake of President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for the disbandment of the Soviet Communist Party, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Sunday.

Nagao Hyodo, director general of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, said the perestroyka—reform—wave in the Soviet Union now is becoming as extensive as the reforms seen in Eastern Europe in the past two years.

Hyodo, speaking in an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) television, said Japan expects the new developments in the Soviet Union to favorably influence the long-standing dispute over four islands Japan claims, but the Soviet Union holds, off Hokkaido.

"This will help enable Japan to take a broad step over financial assistance to the Soviet Union," he said.

Hyodo said Russian President Boris Yeltsin is gaining more power but that he will be forced to take risks in his administration, particularly in economic affairs.

Nakayama Welcomes Gorbachev Move

OW2508063391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Japan on Sunday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to leave the leadership of the Communist Party and to call for its dissolution, describing it a "turning point" in Soviet history.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said, "Japan welcomes President Gorbachev's decision, which came in response to the start of full- scale reforms launched at the popular level for democratization and liberalization."

Nakayama said in a statement that Japan hopes the move will lead to "a crystalization of true reform in the Soviet Union in both the political and economic spheres, and that domestic and foreign policies based on the principles of freedom and justice will be promoted."

He called the latest development in the rapidly evolving Soviet situation the greatest turning point in the Soviet Union since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, in which Marxists seized control of the government.

On Saturday, Gorbachev accused the Communist Party of involvement in last Monday's attempted coup d'etat.

He announced his resignation as the Communist Party's general secretary, suggested its national Central Committee dissolve itself, ordered the state to seize its property, and banned it from all state organizations.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said Japan expects more Soviet reforms in the wake of Gorbachev's call for the disbandment of the Communist Party.

Nagao Hyodo, director general of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, said the perestroyka—reform—wave in the Soviet Union now is becoming as extensive as the reforms seen in Eastern Europe in the past two years.

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"This will help enable Japan to take a broad step over financial assistance to the Soviet Union," he said.

Hyodo said Russian President Boris Yeltsin is gaining more power but that he will be forced to take risks in his administration, particularly in economic affairs.

Foreign Ministry sources said that if socialism, which has been an obstacle to perestroyka, disappears from the Soviet Union with the disbandment of the Communist Party, democracy may be brought to the country by its people, as happened in East European countries.

Another official, however, said the case is not so simple in the Soviet Union. "The Soviet Union is yet a superpower. Even if it loses the Communist Party, it still has the KGB security police and its huge troops," the official said.

Unlike East European countries, which turned straight to democracy after their socialist governments collapsed, the Soviet Union may go on a winding road to democracy, the official said.

Foreign Ministry sources also suggest that Gorbachev took the stunning action to secure his power as president of the Soviet Union, after seeing strong antipathy toward the Communist Party among the public.

One ministry official said it is still uncertain if Gorbachev can overcome the current crisis by his risky action.

Kaifu Meets Aides To Discuss Soviet Situation

OW2508132891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his top aides met Sunday to discuss Japan's plan of action in response to the rapidly evolving events in the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said Kaifu and his aides were given a briefing by Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe, who just returned from a round of diplomatic consultations in London, Bonn, Brussels, and Washington.

At the meeting were Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Minister of International Trade and Industry Eiichi Nakao, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto.

Officials said Watanabe briefed the others on his talks on the Soviet situation with Western counterparts, particularly with regard to plans for the holding next Thursday in London of a meeting of representatives of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations.

The G-7, which at the summit of its leaders in London in July put in place a program of Western assistance for the Soviet Union, groups Japan, the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

The officials said Watanabe's briefing was followed by an analysis of the most recent developments in the Soviet Union, including President Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and his advice the party's Central Committee disband.

That was followed by a "free discussion" of what Japan should do to in the context of G-7 cooperation and on its own reaction to the new situation, they said.

One official said there was a consensus Japan should act forthrightly in "sending a message" to the Soviet Union and to the Russian Federation of "Japanese support in words and in deeds." The official attempted to play down but would not rule out an offer of financial assistance to Moscow if it was deemed a means of bringing about a "drastic breakthrough in bilateral relations," including progress on resolving in Japan's favor the two countries' territorial dispute.

He said the issue would be taken up at the G-7 meeting, though at the moment Japan has not decided on any such plan.

The dispute over four islands near Hokkaido, occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II, is the greatest obstacle to a full-fledged normalization of Japan-Soviet ties.

"Of course, we're going to go ahead with what was decided at the London summit," the official said. "On top of that, however, it's a significant matter for consideration on what else we should do and when."

Officials indicated it was also discussed at the government meeting what should be done in the immediate future in the way of high-level personnel exchanges with the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation.

The Foreign Ministry will send Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito to Moscow by Tuesday, ministry sources said.

The sources said Japan will "eventually" recognize the independence of the Baltic states as it considers their movement toward democracy, based on the will of the majority of their people, as a welcome development.

They said there are various opinions within the government as to whether Japan should extend recognition to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia immediately, or wait until they finish negotiating with Moscow the technicalities of secession from the Soviet Union.

But he said Japan must not fall too far behind other countries in deciding what action to take with respect to the Baltic states.

Noting European countries such as Sweden and Denmark have extended recognition, the sources said it is probably because of their geographical proximity that they acted in a hastier manner than Japan.

NHK Interviews Soviet Charge d'Affaires

OW2508142791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1015 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Interview with Soviet Charge d'Affaires to Japan Kuznetsov, by NHK announcer Tadashi Sonoda at NHK Studios in Tokyo—live; both speak in Japanese]

[Text] [Sonoda] We have the charge d'affaires to Japan, Kuznetsov, from the Soviet Embasssy in Japan, in our studio. Mr. Kuznetsov, thank you very much for being with us. Let us immediately start with questions. Gorbachev's statement says that the future of the Communist Party and regional party organizations in each republic should be determined by themselves. Can we understand that the Communist Party will actually be dismantled?

[Kuznetsov] First of all, regarding President Gorbachev's statement, the Central Committee must make a determination on dismantling the party. I think they will decide to do so. It will no longer be a nationwide organization; however, party organizations in each republic or each district will make their own decisions. I do not know how they will change. I believe the Communist Party will not be a nationwide organization.

[Sonoda] We are now facing a situation in which the CPSU, which provided guidance to the Soviet Union for more than 70 years, is about to cease to exist. Do you think this is a revolution?

[Kuznetsov] Not only that, but also things happening in the Soviet Union are part of a revolution, of course. The revolution started when we defeated the coup, and the revolution will continue in the future as well.

[Sonoda] You must have received various explanations of the situation and instructions from the Soviet Union yesterday and today. What kind of explanations and instructions did you receive? Also, another thing I would like to ask is about relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. How do you think bilateral ties will develop in the future?

[Kuznetsov] Of course I have received various information. Things are changing very rapidly, and I am a little behind the actual situation. Regarding Japanese-Soviet relatons, the first thing I would like to say here is that the Japanese people, the Japanese Government, representatives of every circle, and the mass media expressed their solidarity and support for the Soviet people, President Gorbachev, and President Yeltsin. I would like to express my appreciation from the bottom of my heart. I think that this alone is of great significance for future Japanese-Soviet relations.

[Sonoda] Thank you very much for being with us today.

Kaifu Asks Soviets To Clarify Control of Arsenal

OW2608051491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called on the Soviet Government Monday to clarify that it remains in control of the country's nuclear arsenal.

"Such control is a very important issue for Japan in view of the abolishment of nuclear weapons," Kaifu told a House of Councillor's budget committee session.

He urged the Soviet Government to affirm that it is in charge of managing and operating the nation's nuclear program.

Kaifu's comments came as it becomes increasingly unclear what powers remain with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following last week's failed coup attempt. Many powers are being taken over by the Russian Federation and other republics.

Kaifu said that Japan is prepared to funnel aid to whoever assumes responsiblity for international matters.

"Until now, the Soviet Union was the point of contact. It is not clear whether authority will [be] shifted to the Russian Federation," Kaifu said.

He said Japan has to extend humanitarian aid to both the Soviet Union and the republics, but it cannot provide technical asistance until it is clear who will assume responsibility.

Noting that Russian Federation Prime Minister Ivan Silayev was to assume the prime ministership of the Soviet Union, Kaifu said he expects a flexible relationship to be established between the two bodies.

Japan's level of assistance will be worked out in consultations with other members of the group of seven industrialized countries, he said.

Representatives from the Group of Seven industrial nations, comprising the United States, Germany, France, Britain Italy, Canada and Japan, are to meet Thursday in London to assess developments in the Soviet Union.

Appraises Dismantling of CPSU

OW2608052991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Kaifu indicated at the House of Councillors Budget Committee meeting today his position that he highly appraises Soviet President Gorbachev's announcement of the dissolution of the Communist Party as an expression of a grass-roots movement for reform.

[Begin Kaifu recording] To date, so-called perestroyka somehow has had an aspect of being reform from the top, a reform within the framework of the Communist Party; however, the dissolution of the Communist Party shows that, with the latest coup failure as the occasion, expectations for true freedom, democracy, and a market economy have arisen from the grass-roots level. I believe the announcement is an expression of this outcome. I am taking the position of highly appraising it and I want to take it as a sign of further progress. [end recording]

Discussing the issue of aid to the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Kaifu said that humanitarian aid, such as food, can be extended to either the union or republics; however, he said, when it comes to technological aid, it must be dealt with a partner who can hold itself responsible for the burden of responsibilities. Hence, it should be decided by the recipient country itself, he said. He thus indicated the idea that he would closely watch how the new Union Treaty is implemented.

JCP Condemns CPSU

OW2508134891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) blasted the Soviet Communist Party on Sunday for breaking away from the "righteous path" of scientific socialism and incurring on itself the "bankruptcy of its great power chauvinism and hegemonism."

Speaking at a news conference at the JCP headquarters in Tokyo, JCP Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa said the disbandment of the Soviet Communist Party "provided the most crucial lesson that a movement deviated from a righteous path (of scientific socialism) would only end up in inviting the terrible collapse."

Fuwa criticized the abortive coup attempt that removed President Mikhail Gorbachev from power from three days for being "criminal coup d'etat."

He reiterated his party's contentions that the Soviet Communist Party's departure from a true scientific socialism led the country to make such historic errors as the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and the armed intervention in Afghanistan.

Commenting on such dramatic developments since Monday as the toppling of the statue of Feliks Dzerzhinskiy, founder of the powerful Soviet secret police KGB, Fuwa said, "in the flow of history, various incidents take place. I have no special feelings about them."

"We cannot decide easily whether we should rejoice or get saddened at the current Soviet situation," he said.

He added the dissolution of the Soviet Communist Party only made evidence of the righteousness of theories of the Japanese Communist Party that has consistently criticized the Soviet Communist Party.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Secretary General Keizo Obuchi issued a statement depicting Gorbachev's recommendation the Communist Party disband as being tantamount to "a farewell to communism."

Obuchi expressed hope the Soviet Union will stabilize its political and economic institutions "as soon as possible," while establishing a society based on freedom and democracy.

However, he stopped short of mentioning how Japan would respond to renewed appeals from Gorbachev for full-fledged financial assistance.

Such assistance could revive the convertibility of the ruble, emboldening the West to trade with and invest in Soviet enterprises.

All of the three major opposition parties urged the Japanese Government to loosen its tight restraint on financial assistance to the Soviets in line with other industrialized countries.

Japan has asserted the occupation by the Soviet Army of four islands off its northern shores since the last days of World War II keeps it from unleashing financial aid in the face of calls for bailing out the stricken Soviet economy.

Social Democratic Party Secretary General Sadao Yamahana issued a statement commending the disbandment of the Soviet Communist Party as "a victory of freedom over oppression and the triumph of democracy over totalitarianism."

Yamahana said Gorbachev's recommendation for the party's dissolution stemmed from the Soviet leader's acceptance of the "(tough) verdict handed down by the Soviet people over the party."

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa also lauded the disbandment of the party as being the "natural results of the perestroyka democratic reforms."

The Democratic Socialist Party's Information and Publication Bureau Director Shohei Umezawa said, "Our party hails the disbandment as a landmark incident in the history of the Soviet Union from the standpoint of defending freedom and democracy."

The three parties, however, urged restraint on the part of the Soviet Union and its people in seeking to perform radical revamping of its social institutions for fear too radical change may unleash massive social unrest.

Komeito's Ichikawa said, "We hope that the Soviet Union will continue to tread on the path of the calm and reasonable reforms."

Newspaper Editor Criticizes Yeltsin for Closings

OW2408123891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 24 KYODO—The new editor-in-chief of the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA criticized Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Saturday for issuing what he called an "antidemocratic" decree temporarily suspending the publication of six newspapers.

Igor Golembovskiy [spelling as received], speaking at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club, said he was very displeased with Yeltsin's action.

"I agree that those papers have not contributed to development of democracy in my country," said Golembiovsky, "but to define something as good and another thing as bad, I think, that is not the idea of democracy."

Yeltsin's decree ordered the temporary suspension of the publication of the newspapers PRAVDA, SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA, and the weekly GLASNOST.

These publications were closed for conducting an "active campaign of slander aimed at misinforming the people and for their complicity in the recent coup," Soviet news agencies TASS and INTERFAX quoted Yeltsin's decree as saying.

Golembiovsky, who has been on a tour of Japan since August 17, expressed support, however, for the removal of the heads of the state-run TASS news agency and the state radio and TV corporation. It is "basically correct," he said.

"If those media supported the coup by their publication or broadcasting, the people in charge should be held responsible for it," he said.

Yeltsin has sacked Lev Spiridonov, general director of TASS, Albert Vlasov, chairman of the NOVOSTI press agency, and Leonid Kravchenko, chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio.

The presidential decree removed Spridonov and Vlasov for "misinformation of the population and the world public concerning the developments in the country," according to TASS.

Golembiovsky on Friday replaced Nikolai Efimov as editor-in-chief of Izvestia, which was formerly a Soviet Government newspaper but declared its independence from the government on Friday.

The Izvestia Publishing House will make a fresh restart as a stock company and issue an independent newspaper, he said.

Golembiovsky is visiting Japan at the invitation of Japanese provincial newspapers and TV stations.

The future of Gorbachev depends on how he acts now, Golembiovsky said, but the reinstated Soviet president seems "still unable to cut off links with the Communist Party."

"Gorbachev has spent his whole life in the party, so it may be hard for him to abandon the values he learned from it," he said.

IZVESTIYA carried a long article last June saying Gorbachev should leave his post as general secretary of the party, he said.

"But he did not listen to us," said Golembiovsky jokingly. "And you know what happened."

Businessmen Hail Gorbachev Decision To Quit Post

OW2508051991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Japan's business community Sunday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to quit his post as Communist Party general secretary, but cautioned that political confusion could persist in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev on Saturday announced his resignation as party chief and called for disbanding the party's decision-making Central Committee.

Japanese business leaders generally welcomed the news, saying the latest developments will accelerate the democratic movement in the Soviet Union.

They expressed concern, however, that the disbandment of the party would lead to the weakening of Gorbachev's power base.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), described the news as a "welcome development" and said, "I hope Gorbachev will promote well-balanced cooperation with the Russian Republic from now on."

"If Gorbachev quits his post as Soviet president, there would be little possibility of the Soviet Union obtaining special associate status in the International Monetary Fund," he said.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the failed coup was prompted largely by the poor performance of economic reforms.

"The power of the state needs to be strong to some extent in order to press ahead with such reforms. Since the Soviet situation is still uncertain, I will closely monitor developments for a while," he said.

Isamu Yamashita, chairman of the Japan-Soviet Economic Cooperation Committee, said economic reforms will be promoted if a democratic political system, based on multiparty rule, takes firm root in the Soviet Union as a result of the disbandment of the communist party.

He cautioned, however, the party's disbandment could bring political confusion because the Soviet military and KGB are still in the grip of communists.

Ken Moroi, chairman of Chichibu Cement Co., forecast the disbandment will spur independence movements among republics and the breakup of the union.

"The Soviet currency and prices will not stabilize as long as the Soviet leadership remains unstable," he said.

G-7 Expected To Discuss Soviet Aid in London

OW2408201091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 24 (KYODO)—Representatives from the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers are expected to discuss aid policy toward the Soviet Union in London as early as Wednesday, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

The government earlier dispatched deputy Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe to Britain, Germany, and the United States to call for a high-level G-7 meeting on the Soviet crisis and to sound out their attitudes on aid to the Soviet Union.

Watanabe is scheduled to brief Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on the other countries' policies immediately after he returns home Sunday night, the sources said.

Kaifu and Nakayama, as well as Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao will then meet to hammer out Japan's policy on aid to the Soviet Union in the wake of the failed coup by hard-liners in Moscow, the sources said.

Germany and France have long called for positive assistance to the Soviet Union, including financial aid, to help promote the transition to a market economy and democratization.

Japan and the United States are reluctant to grant financial assistance to the Soviet Union.

Japanese Ambassador to Washington Ryohei Murata and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger agreed Friday that the two countries coordinate their policies on aid to Moscow while closely watching development in the Soviet Union, according to Japanese officials.

SDPJ Calls for Economic Aid for Soviet Union

OW2608064391 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], in his address at today's regular meeting of the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union [Jichiro] in Akita City, indicated that to further promote democracy in Soviet society the government should extend full-fledged economic aid to the USSR without adhering to its hitherto-maintained policy of not separating politics from economics.

In his address, Chairman Tanabe said that the government should make every effort to provide economic aid to the USSR without making any bones about the policy it has maintained until now. He said the greatest reason for the failure of the coup d'etat lies in the people's determination to stop from falling back into a totalitarian system. To support the Soviets' future efforts to promote perestroyka and continue moving toward becoming a true democratic country, the government should take positive measures to extend financial aid to the Soviet Union, without being particular about the policy of not separating politics from economics. In reference to the Upper House elections next summer, Chairman Tanabe emphasized the need to implement positive measures that will achieve cooperation among opposition parties in the elections. He said: It is natural for the SDPJ to strive for victory. To maintain and perpetuate the situation in which the opposition has a majority over the ruling party in the Upper House, the SDPJ should, as a matter of course, be modest enough to persistently cooperate with other opposition parties in the elections, and it should also enlist the cooperation of Jichiro.

France's Cresson Explains Criticism of Japan

OW2508091691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Suzuka, Mie Pref. Aug. 25 KYODO—French Prime Minister Edith Cresson has written to a Japanese mayor saying her criticism of the Japanese business community's export drive is not condemnation of Japan as an entity, the mayoral office said Sunday.

The letter, dated August 2, was received by Suzuka Mayor Kenjo Ibi in reply to a letter he sent to Cresson, in which he expressed anxiety about her remarks, reported in the local press as antagonism toward Japanese workers' tendency to devote much energy and time to office and factory work.

The central Japanese city earlier concluded an inter-city agreement of friendship with the French city of Le Mans, both of which are car-racing centers.

Cresson dismissed reports on her alleged animosity to Japan and the Japanese as not her true intention, saying in the letter, "concern that I have a strong aversion to Japan is a product of imagination in my eyes."

"What I have taken the issue of is the economic invasion that some Japanese business corporations have staged (in the European market) but not Japan itself," she said.

She said her criticism is directed at Japanese firms' export drive and the country's lopsided trade imbalance with Europe that stood at 21.3 billion dollars in Japan's favor in fiscal 1990, ended March 1991.

"I would like to assure my friendly feelings toward Japan," she said in the letter sent to the Suzuka City Office through the French Embassy in Tokyo.

Ibi's letter, sent in June prior to his official visit to Le Mans the same month, asked Cresson not to risk antagonizing the Japanese people by making "emotional remarks."

"Are you aware that your remarks depicting Japan as an enemy intent on vanquishing the Western world have saddened the citizens of my city, too?" Ibi asked.

He urged Cresson to "understand Japan with a broader perspective."

In May—the month before she took office—the world media quoted Cresson as saying, "They (the Japanese) sit up all night thinking of ways to screw the Americans and the Europeans." And, "they are our common enemy."

Ibi said he was astonished to receive a reply from the French Prime Minister and will send her a letter of gratitude.

LDP Opposes Punishment for Payout Recipients

OW2308234091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 23 KYODO—Nearly all members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) key finance committees expressed opposition Friday to the Ministry of Finance's [MOF] proposal to punish brokerage payout recipients, LDP sources said.

Members of the LDP's Investigation Committee for the Finance and Banking Systems, Finance Division, and Research Commission on Securities Problems gathered together earlier in the day to discuss the MOF's proposal on revision of the Securities and Exchange Law.

The proposal is intended to ban brokerage compensations to select clients and discretionary accounts.

A member criticized the proposal for its vague definition of the term "loss compensation," while another voiced dissatisfaction with the conditions set out by the ministry for the acquisition of paybacks by favored clients.

The financial groups' fierce opposition to the part of the proposal penalizing payback recipients will undoubtedly force the ministry to review its proposal, the sources said.

At a press conference later in the day, Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda indicated that he does not expect the cabinet to decide on the plan next Tuesday.

Many members of the LDP said the ministry could review the plan after watching developments of a meeting of the ad hoc committee on securities and financial problems scheduled to begin in the House of Representative next Wednesday.

In any case, a decision by the cabinet on the plan is likely to be postponed until early September.

In its proposal, the ministry calls for a prison term of up to one year or a fine of up to 1 million yen for securities houses which compensate favored clients.

It also advocates a prison term of up to six months or a fine of up to 500,000 yen for recipients of such rebates.

Brokerages Said To Compensate Since 1983

OW2608060691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official admitted in the Diet on Monday the ministry had been aware of market-loss compensation to favored clients by brokerages since 1983.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's securities bureau, told the House of Councillors Budget Committee the ministry discovered massive reimbursements to customers by brokerages in November 1983.

Matsuno said the ministry also found in a regular inspection that securities companies had provided favors to clients through bond trading before 1983. He said the ministry had warned brokerages repeatedly not to provide favors to clients.

The committee has been investigating a series of scandals involving securities companies and banks.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the same committee the loss compensation practice was not widespread in the securities industry in 1983, and paybacks were small in amount.

Revision of the Securities and Exchange Law would have been necessary in 1983 if the payback practice was common in the industry at that time, he added.

Ministry Cautions Sumitomo Trust for Compensation

OW2408214891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 24 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has cautioned Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. for apparent reimbursement of its favored clients for investment losses, according to Ministry documents obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Saturday.

The alleged compensation case involves fund trusts offered by Sumitomo, a financial vehicle chiefly intended for corporate investors with the principal not secured, according to the documents drafted from a regular inspection of Sumitomo between January and February in 1989.

In the documents, fund managers at Sumitomo are alleged to have swapped securities in fund trust portfolios for those in other portfolios, to apparently compensate for losses suffered on stock and bond market declines.

The documents point out that assets in fund trusts offered by Sumitomo then stood at 6,281 billion yen, and related commissions received by Sumitomo soared 11-fold from 1984, but it does not reveal the amount of funds involved in such swap deals.

Ministry sources said an official at Sumitomo denied any intention of compensating their clients by insisting that such swaps were done "by mistake."

But the ministry drew a conclusion from its regular inspection that such swap transactions violate rules requiring trust banks to manage their fund trust portfolios separately, the sources said.

Sumitomo Trust Bank President Hiroshi Hayasaka denied his company had compensated clients for losses on fund trusts, and refused to comment.

Assets of fund trusts are invested mainly in stock and bonds with investors able to request that a specified portion of their money be invested in stocks or bonds. But trust banks have control over decisions on what individual stocks should be bought or sold.

Fund trusts were popular in the 1980s when the stock market was booming, with their assets once hitting a record 12 trillion yen.

But with stock prices faltering recently, assets of fund trusts stood at 8.7 trillion yen at the end of March.

Komeito Parliamentarians Back SDF Role

OW2308234291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 23 KYODO—Komeito parliamentarians on Friday supported the participation of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel in UN peacekeeping forces, officials of Japan's second-largest opposition party said.

Seven of 11 Komeito parliamentarians expressed support for the participation of the SDF in UN peacekeeping forces when they attended the party's Diet Policy Committee meeting. The four others objected to the SDF's participation.

The officials quoted the seven parliamentarians as saying that the SDF could take part in UN peacekeeping forces as the UN forces were set up for humanitarian and peaceful purposes.

The officials said the 11 parliamentarians were among 46 House of Representatives and House of Councillors members who attended the meeting.

In UN peacekeeping operations—which include monitoring ceasefires and elections in troubled areas of the world, as well as disaster-relief and humanitarian activities—all 46 parliamentarians agreed that participation of the SDF would be constitutional.

Komeito will reopen a Diet Policy Committee meeting on August 28 to ask all committee members whether they think the SDF should participate in the UN peacekeeping forces, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will hold Exective Council and Policy Deliberation Commission meetings on Tuesday to compile an interim report on the government's policy on UN peacekeeping operations.

LDP officials said the party will hold a meeting of secretary generals with the Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) on Thursday.

The LDP, Komeito and DSP agreed to create a group excluding SDF personnel to participate in UN peacekeeping operations when they met last November.

Group Returns From Visit to Soviet Islands

OW2408043391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, Aug. 24 KYODO—A group of 125 Japanese returned here Saturday after visiting graves of their relatives on the Soviet-held islands of Shikotan and Etorofu off Hokkaido.

The group, the first this year, left Kushiro in Hokkaido last Monday by a Transport Ministry training ship to hold memorial services for their relatives buried on the islands, which Japan claims along with the island of Kunashiri and the Habomai group of islets.

Two more groups of Japanese will leave Nemuro on Monday for Kunashiri and the Habomai islets.

The four islands have been held by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II.

Watanabe Calls for Change of Prime Ministers

OW2408113191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Shimada, Shizuoka Pref., Aug. 24 (KYODO)—Former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe called Saturday for a change in prime ministers in October when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's two-year term as president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) expires.

"It is good to change jobs in some two years because the task of prime minister is a very busy job. If a person continues his job as prime minister for a long time, he will get tired," he said.

Watanabe, who leads his own faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is one of the aspirants to succeed Kaifu.

Watanabe, campaigning for the presidential election of the LDP to be held in October, said, "There are lots of talents in our party. All will cooperate, if they take office by turns."

He called for drafting another electoral system reform bill, saying the government's proposed bills aimed at overhauling Japan's electoral system are not fully developed.

The government-proposed bill to be submitted to the current Diet session calls for the introduction of a single-seat constituency system and a proportional representation system in the House of Representatives.

Watanabe proposed to reallocate the number of seats while maintaining the current multi-seat constituency system.

Commenting on the Japanese Government's response to the failed coup in the Soviet Union, Watanabe said the crisis management system did not work and called for strengthening the cabinet's information gathering.

Broadcast Satellite Launched From Tanegashima

Television Reports Countdown

OW2508054391 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] An H-1 rocket carrying broadcast satellite BS-3b will be launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima this afternoon. The following is a relay of a report from the scene:

[Reporter Hideo Yamamori of NHK Kagoshima station reporting from Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima]

I am reporting to you from the Tanegashima Space Center. The area is cloudless today, and the weather is calm with the wind blowing at a velocity of approximately 3 meters per second.

The National Space Development Agency [NASDA] held its second meeting at 1030 [0130 GMT] this morning to examine the effects of thunder clouds off Shikoku on the launch. As a result, NASDA decided to carry out its work as scheduled, concluding that there are no hindrances to launching at the present moment.

A tower that covers the rocket was moved to the launch site this morning, revealing the H-1 rocket, which carries broadcast satellite BS-3b at its head.

A little past noon, injection of fuel—liquid hydrogen and oxygen—into the rocket, the most tense part of the work, started and it will continue until just before the launch.

Broadcast satellite BS-3b is a satellite of the same type as Yuri-3a, through which NHK and other television networks are presently carrying out satellite broadcasting. It will back up Yuri-3a and, through the use of one of its three channels, will conduct high-definition television experimental broadcasting.

If the work continues smoothly as now, the launching of broadcast satellite BS-3b will be conducted about five hours from now—at 1740 [0840 GMT] this afternoon as scheduled.

This has been a report from the Tanegashima Space Center.

Launch Deemed Success

OW2508135191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] The broadcast satellite BS-3b has been successfully launched by an H-1 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture this evening and was given the name of "Yuri-3b."

[Video shows the H-1 rocket lifting off the launch pad] The H-1 rocket carrying the broadcast satellite BS-3b was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture at 1740 JST [0840 GMT] as planned. The rocket slowly left the launch site and roared into the clouds. It then released the first and second stages, and officials confirmed the success of the launch when the satellite was released from the third stage in the skies over the equator shortly after 1800 [0900 GMT], 26 minutes after launch.

[Video shows the control room in the Tanegashima Space Center] A flurry of applause arose in the control room when success was confirmed; staff members shook their hands in relief.

[Video shows NASDA conference room] The National Space Development Agency of Japan [NASDA] announced a little while ago that the BS-3b satellite had been given the name Yuri-3b. Yuri-3b is expected to achieve an almost stationary circular orbit around 0800 on 27 August, and to start functioning as a geostationary satellite 36,000 km above the equator at 110 degrees east longtitude about a month later.

Yuri-3b will serve as a backup satellite for Yuri-3a which is currently used for Japan's commercial satellite broadcasting, and one of three channels will be used for experimental broadcasting of high-definition television [HDTV].

Commenting on the success of the BS-3b launching, NHK Chairman Kawaguchi stated in a press conference held a little while ago: I rejoice at the news of NASDA's successful launching of the BS-3b broadcast satellite; I deepen my respect for the efforts by all people concerned with the project. I also strongly wish that the satellite will keep functioning well in the future and that NHK can receive reliable satellite service so that we can constantly offer satellite broadcasting programs. [video shows Kawaguchi in a press conference]

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Sekiya commented as follows in a statement issued today: The new broadcast satellite marks an epoch because it will be used not only for securing reliable satellite broadcasting services, but also for paving the way for the world's first HDTV broadcasting. The Posts and Telecommunication Ministry will keep working on improving satellite broadcasting systems for better service for the people.

Mongolia

Demonstrators Demand Overthrow of MPRP

LD2508182991 Berlin ADN in German 1755 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar (ADN)—At a rally in Ulaanbaatar some 3,000 demonstrators today demanded the overthrow of the Communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP). "Smash the MPRP" could be read on banners carried by participants in the rally. They noted with satisfaction the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev as CPSU leader. A success of the putsch in Moscow, they feared, could also have had a detrimental effect on the democratization process in Mongolia.

Parliamentary Deputy Bat Sukh, chairman of the New Progressive Movement, called for a direct ban of the MPRP, which achieved a majority in the parliamentary elections. "We can be certain that the Communists do not intend doing the same in Mongolia", he said with reference to the attempted coup d'etat in the USSR. Vice President Gonchigdorz, who is a member of the Social Democratic Party, told the rally that the events in the USSR and the acceleration of the reforms in Mongolia will be discussed at an extraordinary session of parliament in Ulaanbaatar.

On Thursday the MPRP welcomed the defeat of the coup d'etat in the USSR and Gorbachev's return to Moscow. "Our party supports Gorbachev's reform policy and the democratization of society", a statement by the MPRP leadership says.

PRC Trade Union Delegation Visits

OW2208060991 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1238 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Report by reporter Ba Ta Er Cang (1572 1044 1422 0221)]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 19 Aug (XINHUA)—Gonchigdorj, chairman of the Mongolian People's Small Hural and vice president of the Mongolian People's Republic, said today: The people of Mongolia are looking forward to the visit by PRC President Yang Shangkun. The visit will usher in a new era in the history of bilateral relations between Mongolia and China.

Gonchigdorj made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), led by its vice president, Yang Xingfu.

The ACFTU delegation arrived here for a visit on 13 August at the invitation of the Mongolian Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation will fly home on 20 August.

Former Leaders Indicted on Graft Charges

OW2408162891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Ulaanbaator, Aug. 24 (KYODO)—Twelve former leaders in Mongolia, including Jambyn Batmonh, former general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, were indicted for charges of using state funds for individual purposes, prosecutors said Saturday.

Prosecutors said Batmonh, former premier Dumaagiyn Sodnom and 10 other leaders spent state funds, worth 6 million tugrik, or about 140 million yen, for private purpose between 1977 and 1990 when the revolutionary party monopolized power.

The private spending was decided secretly by the party's Politburo, they said.

The party, the world's second-longest ruling communist party after that of the Soviet Union, abandoned its 66-year-long monopoly of power and held multiparty elections last year.

North Korea

Gorbachev's News Conference, Speech Reported

SK2508044191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] According to a TASS report, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave a news conference upon his return to Moscow from Crimea, and made a speech on television the same day.

During the news conference, Gorbachev reviewed the events of the past few days. He said: The incident occurred when the signing of the new union treaty was imminent. This is no accident. Fighting has taken place over the union treaty, and this fighting is very acute.

In answering a question about his relations with Russian President Yeltsin, he said that Yeltsin played an outstanding role in crushing the plot and that he and Yeltsin have made every effort to achieve mutual harmony and cooperation during the past few months as well as over the past few days.

Referring to the CPSU's role, he pointed out that he considers it his duty to remove reactionary forces from the Communist Party. He also said: Some people see the entire party as a reactionary force. I cannot agree with them.

Asked about future punitive measures, he pointed out: We must not organize a witch hunt. He added that all problems must be solved within the framework of a transition to a state governed by law.

He said: We must be very careful and must restrain our feelings now. He added: We must all perform many very difficult tasks. First, we must make every effort to improve the people's standard of living. This is the most important.

In his television speech, Gorbachev said: As president, I think all the events that took place this time are very heartbreaking. I must say that all of us have been troubled at heart for the past few days. This was a serious lesson, and this is true to me in particular.

He also said: The highest priority is to help the country recover from the shock. It would be wrong to consider all the dangers to be over.

High-Level Talks Delay Said Due to Cholera

SK2508095891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 25 Aug 91

["Despicable False Propaganda of Separatists"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang August 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean authorities for taking issue with the agreement of the two sides on holding the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks in Pyongyang from October 22 to 25 and making a unilateral false propaganda that the talks was postponed due to the North.

The South Korean authorities claimed that the dialogue between the authorities of the North and the South was postponed again as the North side proposed to hold the talks in October and the South side accepted it and that it seems that the North designated October as the time of the talks, taking into account the period of policy readjustment after the incident in the Soviet Union.

No Tae-u at a meeting with the chairman of the policy affairs research council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan said he regretted that the North side proposed to put off the North-South premiers' talks till October, and he rudely ascribed the matter to the "incident in the Soviet Union."

Branding this as a false propaganda, the news analyst says:

At the contacts of chief liaison officials of the two sides for the talks, the South side said the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks might be postponed till after mid-October because of cholera now prevalent in South Korea, and the North side magnanimously accepted the postponement of the talks.

The South Korean authorities' allegation that the talks was postponed because the north side first proposed it is a unilateral false propaganda and a sheer fabrication.

Their assertion that the North side proposed to put off the talks in connection with the "incident in the Soviet Union" is an unreasonable jargon.

It is clear that the DPRK Health Ministry took a measure against cholera long before the Soviet incident was known to the world. The far-fetched linking of the two facts is an outrageous and unreasonable sophism.

With such false propaganda, the South Korean authorities scheme to conceal their sinister and treacherous attitude and position to cast a shadow over the North side's patriotic stand for removing the political and military confrontation between the North and the South, realising many-sided cooperation and exchange and paving the way for reunification by bringing the inter-Korean high-level talks to a success and use the talks as a means to prop up their power and perpetuate the division.

The South Korean authorities must immediately stop the shameless false propaganda concerning the postponement of the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks.

More Aerial Reconnaissance Near MDL Reported

SK2408050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors sent a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane to make repeated flights along the military demarcation line (MDL) from east to west for long hours on August 21 and 22 for an intensive espionage on targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

They also let an EH-60 helicopter and army tactical reconnaissance planes of various types fly above the MDL area to commit acts of photographic and electronic reconnaissance on targets in the frontline area of the North side.

In a separate action, the South Korean puppets, at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, frantically staged ground and aerial war games against the North in areas near the MDL.

On Aug. 22, 105 mm artillery units deployed at positions in Chongok-ri, Yonchon County, and Chonggari, Paju County, fired scores of shells into a spot abutting on the MDL. And some 20 heavy tanks of the puppet army massed in the area near Panjong-ri, Yonchon County, staged a frantic war game, moving in a battle formation along frontline roads toward Pangmong, Paju County, adjacent to the MDL.

On the same day, nine armed helicopters appeared in the sky above Samchon peak north of Mahyon-ri, Cholwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, and Yangji-ri of the same county and incited a war atmosphere by strafing at ground targets under our very eyes.

The planes mobilized in various war games in the sky above South Korea on Aug. 21 and 22 totaled more than 1,200.

Facts show that new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are getting more wanton.

Imperialists Said 'Now Vilifying Socialism'

SK2408043891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 24 Aug 91

["Imperialists' Anti-Socialist Campaign and 'Human Rights Club'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang August 24 (KCNA)—However maliciously the imperialists may slander the countries adhering to the revolutionary principles over "human rights problems," it can go down with no one, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The imperialists and reactionaries, posing as the 'champions of human rights', are now vilifying socialism, but they and none other are violating the human rights."

It continues:

The "human rights club" of the imperialists is a major tool of the "peaceful transition" strategy against socialist countries.

In a bid to attain world supremacy, the imperialists concentrate their attack on socialism and pursue the policy of strength and the "peaceful transition" strategy to stifle it.

The imperialists use "human rights" as an important political and diplomatic lever in the "peaceful transition" strategy.

By raising the "human rights problem," the imperialists are trying to impair the image of socialism and isolate the socialist countries and instigate antisocialist elements to create a socio-political confusion from within.

They freely wield the "human rights club" against the socialist countries which adhere to the revolutionary principles. The anti-DPRK campaign of the United States and its stooges is a typical example. The U.S. rulers are trying to vilify the DPRK over the fictitious "human rights problem." In this way, the U.S. imperialists attempt to disparage our socialism for the people and keep off its attraction and influence. They are wielding the "human rights club" against the DPRK where the independent rights of people are strictly ensured. This is as foolish as barking at the moon.

Although the imperialists, posing as "champions of human rights," are vilifying the socialist countries including the DPRK, they and none other are violating the human rights. This is proved by their violations of human rights behind the facade of "freedom," "equality of all people" and "welfare."

In the United States, there are 8.8 million jobless people, 6.1 million semi-unemployed people and more than 35 million people suffering from diseases. Political terrorism is openly committed against the people demanding freedom and democracy and the elementary vital rights of the working people are trampled down ruthlessly.

The U.S. imperialists are mercilessly violating human rights everywhere they go. In recent years alone, they committed state terrorism against independent peoples with brigandish armed intervention in Grenada, Panama, Libya and other parts.

They are illegally occupying a half of our country for more than 40 years and enforcing a most reactionary and anti-popular colonial rule there and trampling down the democratic rights and freedom of the South Korean people at the point of the bayonet and patronising the fascist dictators violating human rights.

The harsh violations of human rights in South Korea at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists clearly show the hypocritic and shameless nature of the "defense of human rights" much vaunted by the U.S. rulers.

Ministry Views U.S. Stance on Denuclearization

SK2608045091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Concerning the position of the United States and the South Korean authorities on the 31 July DPRK Foreign Ministry statement, which states the Republic's Government's new proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the following press statement.

Press statement by the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman:

The DPRK Foreign Ministry released a statement last 31 July stating a new proposal for realizing the cause of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Because it contained realistic and practical measures for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, this proposal has been widely supported and sympathized with at home and abroad. Even the U.S. State Department has recently taken an affirmative, not negative, stand on it, and the South Korean Foreign Ministry, too, hinted at agreeing to discussing our proposal, though on conditions, through the mouth of its spokesman.

The fact is that the United States and the South Korean authorities have recognized our principled position and assertions on realizing the cause of converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, as it is considered that some changes have occurred in their attitude of stubbornly opposing the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

In particular, because the U.S. treatment of our proposal with a relatively affirmative response can possibly provide a possibility for negotiations over the creation of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula, we find it a fortunate turn of event.

Because the United States is practically responsible for the deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea and is their owner, it is directly responsible for taking more forward-looking measures, such as removing the nuclear danger from the Korean peninsula and withdrawing the nuclear weapons from there.

In believing that North and South Korea should jointly agree to and declare the creation of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula by placing the national interest ahead of everything else, transcending the differences in ideologies and systems, we once again confirm that we are fully ready to negotiate with the South Korean side over this issue at any level and at any time.

We insist that the United States and the South Korean authorities come to the negotiation table with us at the earliest possible date if they genuinely hope to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The Republic's Government is convinced that if negotiations are conducted on this, a bright prospect can be opened for realizing the cause of converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

26 August 1991
Pyongyang

Colombian President Supports UN Membership Bid

SK2408044991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 24 (KCNA)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo sent a solidarity message to premier of the DPRK Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk upon the adoption of a resolution by the U.N. Security Council recommending the U.N. General Assembly to admit the DPRK to the United Nations.

The message said Colombia would support this UNSC resolution at the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly.

The resolution is of special significance under the present international situation in which everyone expects the advent of the era of a new international environment, it noted, stressing: The DPRK's entry into the U.N. will decisively contribute to such developments and to creating a new model of trust and expectation in the development of relations among peoples.

Regional Journalists' Meeting Closes 23 Aug

SK2408042591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 24 (KCNA)—The consultative meeting of the presidents of journalist organizations in Asia and Oceania closed at the People's Palace of Culture Friday.

The meeting summed up the achievements and experiences gained in activities of national journalist organizations in Asia and Oceania in the past period, and discussed a series of matters such as ways of activating exchange and cooperation among them and the action program of the journalist organizations in these regions next year.

It was decided to install the Asian and Oceanian regional Secretariat of the international organization of journalists in Pyongyang.

An appeal to the journalists and pressmen in Asia and Oceania was adopted at the consultative meeting.

The Pyongyang meeting, the historic first assembly of chiefs of journalist organizations in Asia and Oceania is of great significance in the development of the international journalist movement and the journalists movement in these regions, the appeal stated.

It stressed that the entire progressive journalists and pressmen in the Asian and Oceanian region, deeply conscious of their mission to the times as the defender and disseminator of progressive ideas and as the true mouthpiece of public opinion, should sharpen the point of their pen of justice to oppose domination and subjugation, aggression and war and destroy all brands of injustice and social evils everywhere.

All the progressive journalists and pressmen who treasure justice and peace, the appeal said, should strongly support the righteous struggle of all Asian and Oceanian people to live in peace and harmony in the continent and ocean free from nuclear weapons and war including the Korean people's struggle to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free, peace zone, oppose outside forces and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

All the journalists and pressmen in Asia and Oceania should oppose the monopoly and arbitrariness of the imperialist forces in mass communication and establish a new international information order so that mass communication may truly contribute to the interests of countries and nations, it said.

For the unity of the journalists and pressmen in Asia and Oceania, it was agreed to open in Pyongyang the Asian and Oceanian regional Secretariat of the IOJ [International Organization of Journalists], a body which would unite all journalists in these regions into one on a democratic basis.

Letters of thanks to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meeting.

The DPRK information committee hosted a reception in the evening for the participants in the meeting.

WPK Central Committee Thank-You Note Viewed

SK2408032791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] A thank you note from the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] was delivered to soldiers of the Korean People's Army [KPA], to which Comrade Sin Kuk-po belongs, because they have contributed to the upkeep of gifts in the International Friendship Exhibition Hall.

The party Central Committee's thank you note says that it warmly thanks the soldiers in the unit for contributing to the upkeep of our people's valuable revolutionary assets exhibited in the International Friendship Exhibition Hall, with the warmest loyalty to the party and the leader.

The note pointed out that the KPA commanding officers, political functionaries, and militant members, to which Comrade Sin Kuk-po belongs, have successfully carried out their assigned militant tasks; with the warmest feelings of contributing to the upkeep generation after generation of the valuable gifts that are a great source of pride for our people, they have searched for aromatic trees hundreds of years old in the rough mountains; and they have made 24,500 [word indistinct] and sent them to the International Friendship Exhibition Hall.

The thank-you note pointed out that their activities brilliantly show the noble traits of heroic KPA soldiers. These soldiers trust the party and the leader with their fate. They are loyal to and perform their duty toward them, by learning from the heroic spirit of the young Communists of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighting era and the heroic fighters of the fatherland liberation war era. The thank-you note also pointed out that their activities will contribute to inspiring our people and the KPA soldiers to fight indomitably for consummation of the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause, with high national pride and confidence in carrying out the revolution under the leadership of the great leader and party.

The note highly evaluated their good deed in the permanent upkeep of the valuable gifts, with much loyalty to the party and the leader.

It was pointed out in the thank-you note that because the enemy's moves to start a war of aggression is most aggravating, soldiers should always be fully prepared to defend the achievements of the socialist fatherland and the revolution and to smoothly carry out their assigned militant tasks, by firmly strengthening units' militant powers.

The party Central Committee, in its thank-you note, said it firmly believes that the KPA soldiers, to which Sin Kuk-po belongs, will brilliantly satisfy the party's confidence and expectations. The soldiers will continue to rally around the party and the leader, devote their fates to fighting for the party and the leader with one mind and purpose, and make innovations in carrying out their assigned military tasks.

A meeting to deliver the WPK Central Committee thank-you note was held on the spot yesterday. Functionaries concerned with commanding officers and soldiers of the unit attended the meeting. The WPK Central Committee thank-you note was delivered amid enthusiastic applause.

At the meeting, Yi Pong-sik, general grade officer; Kim Song-yul, military officer; and Yu Yong-ho, officer, held discussions.

Those who participated in reports and discussions said that the gifts kept in the International Friendship Exhibition Hall are the national treasures of the WPK era. They represent the high respect and adoring feeling of various countries' party and state leaders and world revolutionary people toward the great leader and our party. Saying that keeping and glorifying such valuable revolutionary assets generation after generation is a sacred and revolutionary duty of our people and the KPA soldiers, they pointed out that, even though they have completed the tasks that should be duly done, receiving the thank-you note from the WPK Central Committee is very emotional.

They also said that all of the unit's commanding officers and soldiers should cherish today's glory, and they should continuously prepare themselves to be one-a-match-for-100. They will then fulfill their duty and mission as an eternal companion and reliable defender. They said that all commanding officers and soldiers should firmly set up the party's leading system in the units, should solidly arm themselves with our party's chuche-oriented military ideology and strategy, and should energetically carry out militant drills. They also said that they should firmly defend our own socialist system centering on the popular masses and should be making preparations to smash any enemy's provocative moves in a timely manner.

Those who made reports and discussions stressed that by setting up an order-commanding system and iron-willed military discipline and by bringing into full bloom the traditional beautiful trait of closeness of upper and lower echelons and of the unity between the army and the people, they should give full play to noble political and moral traits as an army for the people and the revolution.

At the meeting, a letter of pledge was adopted.

'Unswerving Loyalty' of Revolutionary Cited

SK2508033891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2311 GMT 7 Aug 91

[NODONG SINMUN 8 August special article: "Unswerving Loyalty Is a Basic Trait of the Chuche-Type Revolutionary"]

[Text] There is no more noble and honorary a title for us who are carrying out the revolution by following the party and the leader than "the revolutionary fighter of the leader" and "the chuche-type revolutionary."

The chuche-type revolutionary is a true revolutionary and a lofty and beautiful kind of man who is unswervingly loyal. The most valuable life for a chuche-type revolutionary is to live for the party and the leader, though one lives only a short time; and to consistently and firmly walk the one road toward loyalty when living one's life.

The chuche-type revolutionaries and people of Korea have plowed the long and arduous revolutionary road by following the party and the leader and have come to deeply understand the revolutionary view of life by deeply experiencing what kind of people are true revolutionaries and what the life of a revolutionary must be like.

The revolutionary's heart must beat only for the party and the leader and unswerving loyalty must be vigorously stored in that heart. When the party and the leader are highly upheld with unswerving loyalty, eternal life and true happiness can be enjoyed. This is an immutable faith which the chuche-type revolutionaries possessed through the long revolutionary struggle period.

1. The Path of the True Revolutionary's Life Is Being Enhanced Ceaselessly Because of Unswerving Loyalty

If the people want to enjoy a worthwhile life they must live it as a revolutionary. If they want to enhance their lives as a revolutionary they must possess unswerving loyalty.

Unswerving loyalty is a lofty trait of the chuche-type revolutionary. Because of unswerving loyalty, the revolutionaries possess the most lofty ideological and spiritual world and are fighting staunchly. They are highly manifesting peerless devotion and heroism by firmly uniting around the party and the leader because this is the fundamental basis of unswerving loyalty.

Unswerving loyalty indeed makes the path of the revolutionary's life the driving force of life, which is the most valuable and eternal.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and secretary has taught: Whether during peaceful times or rigorous times there must be no change in the attitude and position of upholding the party and the leader. One must have faith in, follow, and highly uphold the party and the leader with unswerving loyalty.

There has been much talk about unswerving loyalty historically. There are many kinds of unswerving loyalty in human relations. The basis here is: For whom and for what is the unswerving loyalty?

The unswerving loyalty that the chuche-type revolutionaries are talking about is the unswerving loyalty for the party and the revolution and the unswerving loyalty for its leader and cause.

Unswerving loyalty literally means that whether one lives a short or long lifetime, this is the most lofty ideological sentiment that follows and upholds the leader of the revolution.

The ideological sentiment of always holding deeply in the heart the loyalty toward the party and the leader in whatever circumstance and abiding by it to the end, is not formed by itself.

A temporary and extemporaneous sentiment that is not based on the chuche view of the revolution or that is not consolidated by the rock-firm oath cannot become unswerving loyalty. Unswerving loyalty of the chuche-type revolutionaries becomes the most true and lofty ideological sentiment by following and upholding only the leader of the revolution based on faith and integrity.

The fundamental greatness of the leader makes the revolutionaries feel unswerving loyalty and the will to move forward firmly. For the revolutionaries, the leader of the working class is a great leader who leads them to victory in the revolution and who is an affectionate father and teacher who helps their fate to blossom.

The leader presented the great ideological theory; elucidated the future road of the revolutionaries; united them around the social and political organic body; and led them to victory. The revolution is pioneered and is moved forward victoriously under the leadership of the leader, and the revolutionary's life is enhanced in the bosom of the leader.

The life and struggle of the revolutionary cannot be thought about even for a second without receiving attention from the leader. The true life of a revolutionary is started and blooms from the time it is embraced in the bosom of the leader.

It is due to the leader's ideology and leadership that revolutionaries have grown up to be indomitable fighters, mastering the truth of the revolution. It is also due to the leader's care that they are glorifying their precious political life. Without the leader we cannot speak of victory of the revolution. Likewise, without the single-hearted and burning loyalty to the leader we cannot think of the immortal life of revolutionaries. This is why genuine revolutionaries are upholding the leader as the great leader of the revolution and as the father of their life.

Thus, the single-heartedness of loyalty to the leader of the revolution is planted in the hearts of revolutionaries on the basis of deeply realizing the greatness and benevolence of the leader through practical experiences in life. Revolutionaries of the chuche type have become the revoutionaries with the loftiest features and talent in history and the human beings who lead a most beautiful life because they cherish deep in their hearts such faith, integrity, and sense of obligation.

The single-heartedness of loyalty is precisely the inherent ideological and mental nature of chuche-type revolutionaries. Anyone who is determined to do so can join the revolution. However, without lofty and strong ideological and mental abilities he cannot carry out the revolution to the end. If one is to become a genuine revolutionary who struggles for the revolutionary cause led by the party and the leader, devoting oneself to it, one should be revolution minded, have party and working class spirit, be people-minded, and be faithful to revolutionary obligation and principle under all circumstances. We can say that the course in which one grows up to become such a genuine revoltionary and is tempered as such is precisely the course in which one cherishes single-heartedness of loyalty deep in one's heart.

The single-heartedness of loyalty of chuche-type revolutionaries is precisely the boundless loyalty and filial devotion to the leader of the working class. It is the faith in certain victory in the revolutionary cause led by the leader. It is also not only the revolutionary integrity of sharing a destiny with the leader, but also the lofty obligation of not forgetting but repaying the benevolence of the leader. The single-heartedness of loyalty is as precious as life. The basic criterion that distinguishes between true revolutionaries and false revolutionaries and between loyalists and villainous retainers lies in single-heartedness.

The leader is the supreme brain of the revolution, the great revolutionary, and the great human being. Having single-hearted loyalty to the leader means to uphold and follow the leader with one single mind and with the firm determination to share destiny with the leader forever. Therefore, for revolutionaries, their ideologies are precisely the ideology of the leader, their acts are the deliberate acts that follow the will of the leader, and their traits are the noblest traits that emulate the human characteristics of the leader. This is why those revolutionaries with single-hearted loyalty to the leader proudly claim to be the revolutionary fighters of the leader. Revolutionaries always display revolution-mindedness, party spirit, working class spirit, and people-mindedness and are loyal and dutiful to the leader because they burn with the firm determination to devote their all to the revolutionary cause of the leader.

The revolutionaries of chuche-type of Korea have become the most genuine revolutionaries among revolutionaries and the noblest human beings among human beings because they have single-hearted loyalty. We cannot afford to describe all of the lofty and noble ideological and mental traits that the Korean revolutionaries have proudly displayed in carrying out the revolution under the leadership of the party and the leader.

The Korean Communists and people are the happiest and dignified revolutionaries who have held in high esteem the great Comrade Kim Il-song as the sun and the leader for the first time in the long history of our nation. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who emarked on the road of the revolution early in life with the firm determination to save the fate of the fatherland and the nation, was the great leader [yongdoja] and the benevolent father whom chuche-type revolutionaries and people uphold, entrusting their destinies. The outstanding wisdom of the respected and beloved leader who created the immortal chuche idea and who has elucidated the future road of the Korean revolution with unique ideology and theory has bestowed faith in certain victory upon the Korean Communists and people. The leadership of the leader who leads our people to constant upsurges, turning misfortune into fortune and adversity into prosperity, has brought invincibility to our revolution. The care of the leader who fosters revolutionaries and people amid his bosom is indeed benevolent.

This is why chuche-type revolutionaries have absolutely trusted and respected the leader with the firm faith that the revolution can be victorious only when they hold the great leader in high esteem and with the burning revolutionary obligation to repay the leader's boundless love and trust. It will be victorious when they have thoroughly implemented the leader's revolutionary ideology and his tactical and strategic policies and safeguarded and defended the leader with their lives.

It was because of the single-hearted loyalty that the Korean communists and people who, upholding and revering the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the person sent from heaven [hanulli naesin punuro], named him the sun. It was also an expression of their lofty single-heartedness that they defended the headquarters, blocking bullets with their bodies, and fought to the end, shouting "Long live General Kim Il-song" wherever and whenever.

It is beyond the imagination of human beings that the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters under the leadership of the great general fought their way through the sea of blood and the sea of flames and bravely waged the bloody fight against enemies for 10 to 15 long years, sleeping on snow and living on grass roots. That the revolutionaries of chuche type fought their way through all sorts of difficulties and trials with a smile was not because they had superhuman strength, and that they chose the road of bloody struggle was not because they did not know happiness. They bravely fought, devoting their all to achieving the cause of chuche, because they not only had the firm determination and will to be loyal to the leader, but also cherished burning single-hearted loyalty in their hearts.

History has never witnessed such firm and resolute revolutionaries as the revolutionaries of chuche type who are boundlessly loyal to the leader and who have the outstanding morality and sense of obligation and the noble human spirit. Single-hearted loyalty has led ordinary workers, farmers, and intellectuals to become genuine revolutionaries who are ideologically and mentally the most dignified, noble, and beautiful in this world and who have a high cultural level and rich humanity. The revolutionaries of chuche type have become not only indomitable fighters who are passionate and tough in the revolutionary struggle and who have extraordinary spirit, but who are also the most dignified and the strong human beings.

Single-hearted loyalty is the eternal lifeblood which makes the life of revolutionaries a most rewarding and valuable one. For human beings, there is no more noble desire and ideal than to lead a genuine life. Man wants to live truthfully. However, history has often recorded the fact that some people have boundless honor and happiness while some other people have indelible dishonor or disgrace. The history of our people's revolutionary struggle had the hot-blooded youths such as Kim Hyok and Cha Kwang-su; the faithful fighters, who fought with rifles in the forests of Paektu, such as Kim Chaek and Choe Hyon; and the revolutionaries who are intellectuals such as Chong Chun-taek and Kang Yong-chang. Although their personal backgrounds, past careers, and the courses of their lives were different, their names have been engraved in the hearts of our people eternally. This is because their whole life was linked with single-hearted loyalty.

Revolutionaries are the fighters of the leader. The whole life of a revolutionary is evaluated according to how devotedly he lived for the leader and his cause. The course of life of a revolutionary begins with the pledge he has made before the leader who is leading the revolution to victory while giving him a noble political life and links with the days of the single-hearted loyalty which keeps the pledge to the end. The life of revolutionaries can be led and glorified eternally only in one way where the leader of the revolution trusts and loves his fighters and fighters absolutely trust their leader and are boundlessly loyal to him. Revolutionaries should make the flower of the revolution continuously bloom.

If one is to become a revolutionary with single-hearted loyalty one should become the eternal companion who keeps to the end the pledge one has made before the leader and should not become a momentary companion who leaves soon after meeting on a road. By nature, the course of life of a revolutionary begins with struggle and ends with struggle. No matter how beautiful a flower may be, if it fails to bloom continuously, it is destined to be rejected by people. History and people will remember forever and highly evaluate those who have continuously made the flower of loyalty bloom on the road of upholding the leader, that is to say, those revolutionaries who have devoted their whole life to the leader's cause.

Those faithful revolutionary fighters who devoted their all to the cause of the party and the leader rest in peace in the Taesongsan revolutionary fighters' cemetery. Among them are many fighters who sacrificed their lives for the fatherland and the revolution in the heyday of their youth. Their lives were indeed noble although they were short.

To our revolutionary warriors nothing is more honorable than to be remembered permanently by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party as these [revolutionary fighters] were. Nothing is more honorable than to become genuine chuche-type revolutionaries who are as immortal as our revolutionary history.

The true key to glorifying the revolutionaries' lives, including their immortal political lives, lies in single-minded loyalty. Under no circumstances will this great truth, which our people learned in the long struggle and have defended ever since, change.

2. The Chuche-Type Communist Revolutionaries' Single-mindedness is the Loftiest and Most Fervent Revolutionary Spirit Unheard of in History.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, has noted: From the first day of our revolution the Korean Communists have traversed a road of struggle and victory. They braved difficulties of all descriptions, convinced that they can blaze the treacherous revolutionary path only when they uphold the great Comrade Kim Il-song at the head of their ranks and only when they have lived and struggled on the strength of their single-mindedness of loyalty to the leader every minute of their lives, entrusting their fate to the great Comrade Kim Il-song.

From the moment they held in high esteem the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the Korean Communists and people have tenaciously traversed a long and glorious revolutionary road. Even today they remain as loyal and filial as ever.

To live and struggle with the siglemindedness of loyalty is a source of great self-respect and pride for the chuche-type revolutionaries. The lifelong journey traversed by the Korean revolutionaries has been a revolutionary one. They can be proud of it and regard it as rewarding. On this road they fought to a fierce showdown for survival with the enemy, and they staged a struggle to build a new life out of a heap of ashes.

The chuche-type revolutionaries have been able to advance along a path of proud struggle and victory because they cherished deep in their hearts the single-mindedness. The chuche-type revolutionaries' single-mindedness is the fervid and clear-cut revolutionary spirit that is consistent in upholding and honoring the only leader. This is unchanging under any circumstances.

uch single-mindedness has become ingrained thanks to he revolutionaries' tireless and conscious struggle and ffort to invariably fulfill vows made to the leader until he end of their lives and to establish a chuche-oriented utlook on the world.

ne chuche-type revolutionaries' single-mindedness is, irst of all, an invincible faith in the revolutionary cause mbraced by the party and leader.

iterally, the revolutionaries are the fighters who have ommitted themselves to the revolution with a firm onviction that the revolutionary cause is just and that it vill triumph. Those who uphold the leader based on heir own faith and remain loyal to the leader's cause are evolutionaries to the core.

o, the revolutionaries' single-mindedness should be the ind that is built on a firm outlook on the world and a evolutionary outlook on the leader. The solidity of the huche-type revolutionaries' single-mindedness lies in heir burning, death-defying determination and will to ffer themselves for the sake of the revolutionary cause ed by the leader.

t was not at anyone's behest or in exchange for reward r personal fame and success that in the past the anti-apanese revolutionary fighters risked their lives to mbark upon the revolutionary road explored by the reat general. They could commit themselves physically nd spiritually, their youthfulness, and even their lives to he revolutionary cause because they were so firmly onvinced that the revolution led by the great Gen. Kim l-song will triumph without fail and that future generaions would live in a happy world, even though they vould not live until that day.

evolutionaries cherishing a faith in certain victory are trong ideologically and spiritually. It was because of his aith that he would again join the ranks of warriors led by he great leader and fight until the end that one anti-apanese warrior was able to demonstrate the spirit of erseverance by sawing off one of his wounded legs with is own hands while singing a revolutionary song.

ithout the firm faith that he was not to die before arrying out the order from the respected and beloved omrade Supreme Commander, it is impossible to speak f a Korean People's Army commanding officer's heroic eed, a commander who had continued to fulfill his duty s commander of a battle until the end of his life even hough he was seriously wounded, asking that his life be xtended for even five minutes.

any indomitable fighters have devoted themselves to evolutions. However, where can we find indomitable evolutionaries and virtual phoenixes whose hearts beat ingle-mindedly and who fought until the last drop of heir blood was shed? The hearts of revolutionaries with firm belief in sure victory are sizzling with a fervent nthusiasm with which to devote themselves to the party nd the revolution. They lack even minimal selfishness. firm belief in our party's policies lies in the hearts of unheralded heroes who have forever devoted themselves to doing whatever the party and the leader want and who worked persistently and sincerely. It is these revolutionaries who quickly and thoroughly implement the lines and policies presented by the party and the leader. Because they are so pure and devoted to upholding the leader, only single-mindedness prevails in the ranks of chuche-type revolutionaries. Because loyal fighters who have only a belief in sure victory firmly believe and follow their leader, the Korean revolution is vigorously marching along the straight road of victory under the banner of the chuche idea.

The chuche-type revolutionaries' single-heartedness is also a strong revolutionary spirit enabling them to uphold to the end the resolve they made to the leader. Revolutionaries' value and dignity are brightly displayed by their revolutionary spirit with which they uphold the resolve they once made.

The chuche-type revolutionaries in Korea have become such dignified and proud revolutionaries because they are upholding to the end the revolve they made to their leader. No other revolutionaries in the world have a stronger resolve and firmer determination to carry out the revolution than the chuche-type revolutionaries. The heart of an indomitable fighter who bit out his own tongue to keep the revolutionary headquarters' secrets was filled with a loyal single-minded determination to give his last drop of blood for the respected and beloved commander. The genuine revolutionary who shouted "I can see the victory of the revolution" at his execution, after having both of his eyes plucked out, was filled with an indomitable will not to give up his honor as the revolutionary fighter of the respected and beloved general even though he might die.

Unbreakable is the revolutionaries' will, and unstoppable is their life consistent with struggle. The resoluteness of the revolutionary spirit of the chuche-type revolutionaries is an absolute and unconditional spirit with which to follow the single road along which the the party and the leader direct them to march. Wading through quagmires if they are asked to and unconditionally crossing mountains and rivers if they are asked to is the fighters' principle and attitude toward the leader. The firm voice of a grandmother in Taesong who said, "We absolutely support only the great leader," clearly testifies to the chuche-type revolutionaries' resoluteness. Revolutionaries cannot change their minds or abandon principles on the road of struggle. Revolutionaries who have strong principles and are trustworthy do not blow with the wind. Such revolutionaries do not have different positions and attitudes in a peaceful or stern period and can single-mindedly and faithfully live and struggle fpr the party and the leader to the end.

There can be twists and turns along the revolutionary road, of course. Each time, genuine revolutionaries always firmly believe in the party and the leader, think only of the party, and more firmly adhere to revolutionary principles. Socialism, without wavering, is ever-victorious in our country even under today's circumstances in which the imperialists are viciously kicking up antisocialist maneuvers. This is because the chuche-type revolutionaries who have strong and firm revolutionary principles are strongly united around the party and the leader. Nothing can crush the will of the chuche-type revolutionaries who are single-hearted toward the party and the leader and who fight with revolutionary optimism.

For the chuche-type revolutionaries to be single-hearted is a noble revolutionary will enabling them to fulfill their duty as the fighters of the party and the leader. The revolutionaries' single-heartedness gives them a sense of morality and obligation. A sense of obligation is a very pure sentiment for consciously fulfilling one's duties and repaying someone else's love and trust based upon revolutionary conscience.

Chuche-type revolutionaries have a clean revolutionary conscience, enabling them to fulfill the expectations of the party and the leader. The chuche-type revolutionaries' single-heartedness is very sincere and enthusiastic because they are burning with a fervent desire to be boundlessly loyal to the revolution without forgetting the favors of the party and the leader that raised them and trust them. Each and every Korean revolutionary is a man who, in the embrace of the party and the leader, has been raised into a genuine revolutionary with a valuable political life. The great leader's trust of the revolutionary fighters is unconditional. He trusts them to the end no matter what may change in the world. Also, the leader's [suryongnimui] love is boundlessly benevolent. He embraces one, he wholeheartedly takes care of not only one's life but also the destiny of one's posterity. The great leader's sense of obligation is a force that tightens links between the leader [suryong] and warriors who have the same ideas, beliefs, and destiny into inseparable blood ties. His is a noble virtue that has no precedent in history.

Because they uphold respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as a great teacher and as a great leader [yondoja], our revolutionaries' hearts are filled with the very pure and very warm idea and feeling that they consider a sense of obligation more important than their lives. The chuche-type revolutionaries' hearts beat rigorously with a clean, ardent desire to fulfill the warriors' sense of obligation to the party and the leader.

The ardent desire and noble sense of obligation deep in the hearts of young communists of the past was that they would not leave the great comrade Hanbyol, even though they might not be able to carry out the revolution after being knocked down in the fighting. Therefore, even when they entered the final decisive battle, they smiled, praying for the safety of the great general. Also, even when they were left alone on a remote mountain, they fought to the end in response to their obligation as the general's warriors.

The chuche-type revolutionaries had in their hearts a firm and unchanging sense of obligation that they never abandoned. Also, their sense of obligation became more ardent as time went by and as generations passed. Because there was such a sense of obligation, the chuche-type revolutionaries always consolidated inseparable blood ties with the leader [suryong].

The nobility of the Korean Communist revolutionaries' sense of obligation was clearly shown in the songs they wrote and songs they sang that praised their leader [suryong] with all their hearts. A determination that the young Communists made in writing and singing "The Song of Korea," a revolutionary anthem, during the formative period of our revolution has not changed. Likewise, after the liberation, the loyal revolutionary fighters also wrote "The Song of General Kim Il-song," an immortal revolutionary song, and inspired all the people with absolute trust in the leader [suryongnim]. Today, all of the people across the country sing with all their hearts the song "We Pray for the Long and Healthy Life of the Leader [syryongnim]."

Apart from the chuche-type revolutionaries' sense of obligation, it is unthinkable the fact that "Mt. Paektu," a long epic, was created after the liberation in which the respected and beloved leader is highly admired as the tiger of Mt. Paektu and legendary hero. Apart from the blood ties between the leader [suryong] and warriors, it is unthinkable that a library for the revolutionary films "An Immortal History," "The Star of Korea," and "The Sun of the Nation," was created and, as a result, we could sing the revolutionary history of the leader [suryongnim] in a refined way. Blood ties between the leader [suryong] and warriors and between the leader [suryong] and people are a proud picture of our society.

It has become a noble characteristic of our people today to firmly trust and follow the party and the leader, who has bestowed infinite happiness and value of life upon them and to be faithful to the party and the leader. Because of the many chuche-type revolutionaries who have fought, cherishing in their hearts a sense of revolutionary obligation, the kindred unity of the leader, the party, and the masses has been firmly deepened and the pure bloodline of chuche has been maintained in our country.

The Korean revolution has been victoriously fought on the strength of those genuine revolutionaries with single-hearted loyalty. If there are revolutionaries with single-hearted loyalty, any difficulties and trials can be overcome, and the revolution and construction can be vigorously advanced along the road designated by the party and the leader. This is precisely the principle of our revolution.

There is a large number of chuche-type revolutionaries who have cherished single-heartedness deep in their hearts. The firm and invariable will of all party members and the working people is to traverse the single road of loyalty forever, upholding and following the ideology and intent of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause to the end. Our youth and juveniles are vigorously growing up to be revolutionary fighters who will be loyal and dutiful to the party and the revolution. This firmly guarantees the bright future of our revolution.

The Korean revolution, as in the past, will be firmly safeguarded, defended, and victoriously advanced today and tomorrow on the strength of the genuine chuche-type revolutionaries who have cherished single-hearted loyalty deep in their hearts. The fact that our people are vigorously growing up to be communist chuche-type revolutionaries who have mastered single-heartedness on the loftiest plane is precisely our people's great pride and happiness.

We continue the revolution with firm conviction in the future. The mission and duty that should reunify the country by driving the U.S. imperialists out of this land and should consummate the socialist cause to the end are imposed on our generation, that is, the chuche-type revolutionaries. For us, who should continuously fight our way on a long and rough road in the future, single-hearted loyalty is more precious than life.

"Let us be single-heartedly loyal and dutiful to the party and the leader." This is precisely not only the goal of the life of the chuche-type revolutionaries but is their slogan of faith. The chuche-type revolutionaries should live for the party and the leader even though they live for a moment. They should live with single-heartedness on the single road of the revolution.

Today, our party members and the working people are fighting the revolution, holding the great leader in high esteem. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is firmly standing at the head of the party and the revolution, and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading the struggle to inherit and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause. As the revolution and construction have developed, our people have more deeply realized the greatness and correctness of the leadership of the party and the leader and the dignity and happiness of being blessed with the leadership.

The single-heartedness of our chuche-type revolutionaries has become firmer and more invariable because they have held the great leader of the revolution in high esteem. The bosom of our party is the great fatherly bosom that fosters and leads all party members and the working people to become proud and dignified chuche-type revolutionaries. The hearts of our fighters are precisely the hearts bestowed by the party and the leader, and only single-heartedness is burning in these hearts.

The road of the revolution, which we must travel at any cost, is still far and rugged. However, now that we have given the oath of loyalty to carry out the revolution to the end before the great leader of the revolution, we will keep this oath to the end. There will be only victory and glory in the future of our people who are single-heartedly advancing along the single road of the revolution, upholding and following the leadership of the party and the leader.

KCNA Reviews 24 Aug Pyongyang Press

SK2408060191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang August 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent messages to foreign party and state leaders in reply to their messages on the occasion of the month of solidarity with the Korean people and the 38th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the fatherland liberation war.

NODONG SINMUN conveys words of South Korean people deeply revering the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper carries an article telling that the great leader President Kim Il-song brought about a great turn for the epochal development of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of our country centering round the anti-Japanese armed struggle at the historical Nanhutou meeting (in February-March 1936).

A book "Cradle of Chuche" was published in English in Guyana, says the paper.

The paper editorially calls on the whole party, the whole country and entire people to turn out in the endeavours to carry through the slogan "When our party is determined we can do anything!"

Appearing in the press are reports that on the occasion of the first Youth Day (August 28) young people across the country registered many achievements of labour as gifts to the party and the unveiling ceremony of a monument to the northern railways erected to convey the feats of labour of young people in laying Hyesan-Manpo youth line was held.

Introduced in papers is an appeal adopted at the consultative meeting of the chiefs of journalist organisations in Asia and Oceania.

Papers inform the readers that at the contact between chief liaison officials of both sides for the North-South high-level talks it was agreed to hold the 4th round of the talks in Pyongyang from October 22 to 25.

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh met in Nepal with the head of a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN.

It is reported in papers that a forum on the reunification question was held in South Korea to mark the 2nd anniversary of Yim Su-kyong's visit to the North and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets do not cease from their military provocations.

The press begin to carry the full text of letters written by student Yim Chong-sok, third-term chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea, in prison.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN denounces the No Tae-u ruling group for passing prison terms upon student Song Kap-sok, former chairman of Chondaehyop.

KCNA Review of 26 Aug NODONG SINMUN

SK2608064991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang August 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages news that foreign media reported the great leader President Kim Il-song's work "Let Us Achieve the Great Unity of Our Nation".

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, and Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic of Maldives, in reply to his messages of greetings on the independence day of those countries, says the paper.

Appearing in the daily is a letter to President Kim Il-song from the participants of a meeting celebrating the 38th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War which was held in Pakistan.

President Kim Il-song's proposal for reunification through confederacy was actively supported by different countries, says the daily.

An article of the paper says that President Kim Il-song firmly built the Soyonji Peak secret camp as a rear secret camp of the Mt. Paektu district secret base during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The paper conveys words of South Korean people deeply revering the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the leader of the nation.

It gives an account of a national symposium of social science held to mark the 55th anniversary of the victorious battle in Fusong County seat organized and commanded by President Kim Il-song during the anti-Japanese armed struggle (August 1936).

Econews of the paper includes reports that the Pukjung machine complex in North Pyongan Province is energetically stepping up the production of turbo-refrigerator for air conditioner and the construction of the East Pyongyang thermal power plant is progressing fast. The paper reports that a national festival of youth and students opened and various functions are being held on the occasion of the first youth day (August 28).

It informs the readers that a meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Chuche Idea Academy and a national technical innovation exhibition were held.

The paper introduces the newly-released Korean documentary film "Let Us Open the Door to Reunification by Great Unity of the Nation".

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland (Unity) met with the Korean ambassador to his country, according to the paper.

Broad segments of world public are condemning the U.S. imperialists for seeking a war of aggression in Korea, says the paper.

Carried in the paper is the third instalment of the full text of the letter written by student Im Chong-sok, the third-term chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), in prison.

The paper conveys what world public says under the title "U.S. Nuclear Weapons in South Korea Pose Threat to Peace in Korean Peninsula, Asia and the World".

Comrade Jiang Zemin inspected Qinghai Province, the president of Kenya declared that the settlement of the problem of his country does not need the instructions of other countries, the Panamanian foreign minister spurned the demands of the United States for the flights of U.S. Airforce planes over Panama, says the paper.

The paper informs the readers that Gorbachev resigned from the post of general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Central Control Committee of the CPSU protested the anti-communist acts, measures against the communist party have been taken in the Soviet Union and PRAVDA and the NOVOSTI Press Agency lodged a protest against a decree of the Russian Federation president.

The paper in an article titled "Trend of Independence Cannot Be Checked" deals with the anti-U.S. movement for independence in Latin American countries.

South Korea

North Reportedly Expands Scud Unit

SK2508033191 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] A high-ranking intelligence official in the ROK Defense Ministry said on 25 August that North Korea has been expanding a regiment of improved ground-to-ground Scud missiles (range 500 km) into a brigade, has developed the "Nodong I" missile, and has been test firing it. Japan is within this missile's range.

This official also said that the construction of North Korea's third nuclear reactor and a spent nuclear fuel reprocessing facility is in its final stage and that North Korea has acquired the capability to produce approximately 4,500 tons of chemical agents a year.

This official also said that the ministry learned that North Korea has stockpiled enough ammunition, fuel, and other war materiels to wage war for three months without outside assistance; has built all the frontline camps and facilities underground; has also done so in the rear area as well, since the Gulf war; and has built underground facilities sheltering important airplanes and ships.

This official also said: "This has been disclosed by recent satellite data."

This official also said that North Korea has 24 submarines, including the most threatening Romeo-class submarine (1,800 ton), and has been building a number of hydrofoils (40 to 50 knots an hour) to reinforce its capability to conduct surprise landing operations.

This official also said that this year North Korea increased production of self-propelled guns and armored personnel carriers, deployed mobile army corps and strategic artillery corps along major offensive lines, and extended the range of large-caliber self-propelled guns and deployed them.

Japan Urged To Act Prudently in North Talks

SK2508085591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0837 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 25 (YONHAP)—With postponement of the fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks, South Korea will ask Japan to act with prudence during the Aug. 30-31 Tokyo-Pyongyang talks on diplomatic normalization in Beijing, an official at the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha, who is due to visit Tokyo on Aug. 26-29, would deliver the government's position to Japan when he meets with his Japanese counterpart Hisashi Owada, said the official who wanted to remain unidentified.

The South and North agreed Friday to put off the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, scheduled for Aug. 27-30 in Pyongyang, until Oct. 23-25.

The government has not been considering certain counter-measures regarding the Japan-North Korea talks in Beijing since it believes Japan would be fully aware of Seoul's position that there should be meaningful progress in inter-Korean dialogue before Japan normalizes relations with North Korea, he said.

However, there is necessity the government deliver its position to Tokyo if Japan unilaterally progress its talks with North Korea, it might aggravate inter-Korean relations, he said.

Kim Yong-nam Replaced by Minister for UN Speech

SK2508042191 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 24 August that on 17 September, the day North Korea's UN admission is approved, North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu will deliver an acceptance speech; Premier Yon Hyong-muk will deliver a keynote speech on 2 October.

An ROK Government official concerned said: "North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam was originally scheduled to deliver the acceptance speech. However, he has recently been replaced by Deputy Minister Kang." He also said: "Why he has been replaced is not known."

Cholera Not Legal Grounds for Postponing Talks

SK2408072991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea violated the rules of the World Health Organization (WHO) when it refused to allow South Koreans to enter Pyongyang for the inter-Korean premiers' talks because of a cholera epidemic in the South, a government official said Saturday.

On Wednesday, the government requested WHO's interpretation of North Korea's action, the official said. WHO replied that the refusal violated its rules and it was ready to provide help if travelers from cholera-struck areas were denied entry.

The fourth round of the talks were scheduled for next week in Pyongyang, but North Korea demanded their postponement and said it could not allow the cholera epidemic in the South to spread to the North.

The talks were rescheduled for late October in a last-minute compromise Friday.

Seoul To Establish Organization for Exchanges

SK2408132191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1231 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry will set up next year an organization to unify all projects for cultural exchanges with foreign countries under its centralized control. The cultural exchanges have currently been arranged by private organizations affiliated with several government ministries.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok chaired a meeting of the committee for the formation of "The Korea Foundation" in which officials decided to complete all necessary preparations by the end of December for the inauguration of the foundation next year.

The new organization is to publicize Korea's current affairs and cultural heritages, support Korean studies and academic sessions abroad, facilitate exchanges with related foreign institutions, and put into effect external cultural accords.

"The Korea Foundation will do so in close cooperation with 142 diplomatic missions, four cultural centers and 36 information centers abroad," a government official said.

North Korea Urged To Change View of South

SK2608100491 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 24 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "North Korea Should Change Its Point of View"]

[Text] The South-North premier-level talks, the only official channel between the South and North, have been postponed time after time. At their third round of talks in Seoul last December, and before they left for home, the South and North prime ministers agreed to hold the fourth round in Pyongyang and even set the date.

However, North Korea has already postponed the fourth round of talks a couple of times on some pretext or other. At first, the two sides agreed to hold the fourth round of talks in Pyongyang on 25 February, but the North unilaterally called it off only a week before that date, citing the Team Spirit military exercise as an excuse. For some time after that, North Korea turned a deaf ear to the South's repeated calls to reopen the talks. Then, in a telephone message in early July, North Korea suggested that the talks be held on 27 August. As there were no strings attached to the proposal, such as the release of people who visited North, one could hope that the talks would take place.

Once again the North refused talks with the South, arguing that it cannot allow a delegation from the South to enter its territory because of the cholera in the South and proposing that the fourth round of talks be held on 22 October, citing an international conference already on the calendar.

Given North Korea's attitude, it is still unclear whether the fourth round of talks will be held in October. North Korea might cancel the talks scheduled for 22 October again, and no one knows what excuse it might come up with. It was not so much the cholera as the coup in the Soviet Union that made North Korea cancel the talk scheduled for 27 August. Hoping that the conservative and reactionary forces in the Soviet Union would accomplish what they set out to achieve, North Korea meant to wait and see.

No sooner had a coup been pulled off in Moscow than North Korea excitedly declared in NODONG SINMUN that "mankind's march along the road to socialism is the inevitable course of development in history that no force on earth can stop" and that "anyone who obeys the inevitable course of event will triumph, but those who try to swim against it will do so at their peril." North Korea crowed about the coup that turned out to be a complete failure in less than three days. How does North Korea feel about it now? It may say with regret: We should have held the talks in Pyongyang, and it would have been good for us.

If the coup in the Soviet Union had been successful or at least had not failed for a few more days, North Korea might not have proposed to hold the talks on 22 October. It might have gone so far as to break up the talks completely.

It can be interpreted that had it not been for perestroyka and glasnost in the Soviet Union, North Korea would have ignored talks with the South. In other words, North Korea has so far pretended to talk to the South by caving in to international pressure. It might never have meant to talk to the South.

After seeing what has happened in the Soviet Union, North Korea should try to look squarely at the unstoppable stream of the times and change its way of viewing the South. It is about time for North Korea to abandon the childish game of trying to instigate injudicious students to visit the North as part of its operations against the South. To hold official, government-to-government talks with the South is North Korea's way of fulfilling its obligations as member of the United Nations.

Council of Former World Leaders Meets in Seoul

SK2608072191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Former world leaders from 36 nations are meeting in South Korea to debate the state of the globe and search for solutions in the fourth "summit council for world peace."

The theme of the council, which opened in Seoul on Monday with 160 former presidents, prime ministers and senior officials, is the 21st century and the new world order.

The council was founded by the Rev. Moon Sun-myung, leader of the Unification Church, in 1987.

The three panel discussions on the first day were "The New World Order and Relations Between Two Koreas," "Democracy in the 21st Century" and "Influences of Capitalism and Socialism and the Crisis of New Economic Model."

A trip to the truce village of Panmunjom, the only official meeting spot between both halves of Korea, will round out the conference on Thursday.

Former Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Antonio de Varona, Aleksander Gurov, chairman of the Central Administrative Board of Soviet Internal Affairs Ministry, and former Egyptian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz Hagazy are among the participants.

3-Way Trade With North, Southeast Asia Viewed

SK2308144291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that the government is reviewing plans for three-way trade, including the vicarious execution of sales of North Korean products to Southeast Asia as part of North-South economic cooperation.

On 19 August, a relevant government official said that North Korea, having listed the expansion of relations with Southeast Asia as one of its two major diplomatic targets this year, is frequently sending high-ranking officials to this area. However, since North Korea is unfamiliar with the market situation in this area and with capitalism-oriented international trade, it has a certain limits in cultivating markets.

North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk visited Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia from 29 January to 7 February, and Vice President Yi Chong-ok visited Vietnam, Laos, and India from 26 April to 13 May. Following this, Kim Tal-hyon, deputy premier and chairman of the Committee for External Economic Affairs, [as published], visited the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand from 8 to 25 June. By carrying out this active visiting diplomacy, North Korea agreed to mutually establish permanent missions with Thailand, which has had ruptured diplomatic relations with North Korea since the Aungsan incident in 1983. North Korea also reached an agreement on the principle of establishing diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

This official explained that North Korea's diplomatic strategy seems to have been prompted by its observation that since the Soviet Union, the nation offering the greatest economic assistance, and China have demanded payments in hard currency, the only place where North Korea's poor-quality products can be exported is Southeast Asia. However, with their poor quality, North Korean products are not competitive, and most of what North Korea can import from Southeast Asia is raw materials. Therefore, setting up a joint venture firm in such a way as to use South Korean firms' technology and capital and North Korea's cheap labor and land, as well as three-way trade with South Korean markets, certainly will be advantageous.

Although North Korea is avoiding negotiations for trade and joint venture projects with the ROK Government, it does not evade exchanges between civilian enterprises, as seen in the recent exchange of rice. Thus, South Korea's plans can be realized. This official added that the government is going to examine North Korea's intentions through unofficial contacts.

The trade volume between the ROK and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations amounted to $100,148,000,000 last year, but that of North Korea and ASEAN was only $132,760,000.

In addition, North Korea's export items are mostly steel, iron, and chemical products, and these items were designed only for one-time exports and are not goods for durable trade.

North Korea agreed to make barter trade with Thailand for cement and rice. However, it has failed to execute any practical trade up to the present, due to differences in calculating prices.

This official pointed out that when Japan set up an apparel factory in the manner of direct investment, North Korea demanded that the monthly wage of workers be $200. However, only $50 is paid a month.

He concluded that in view of Japan's low-wage policy, which takes advantage of North Korea's difficult situation, joint venture enterprises, if realized with the ROK, will be able to pay a higher wage and that the advance of our capital to North Korea is desirable for the soundness of our economy after reunification.

Further on Upcoming Talks With Soviet Delegation

SK2408001191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Aug 91 p 7

[Text] A seven-member Soviet delegation will visit Korea Aug. 30-Sep. 5 conclude unsettled matters concerning Korea's $800 million tied loan to help finance Moscow's purchase of raw materials and consumer goods from Korea this year.

The working-level group will be the first Soviet officials to visit Korea since the abortive coup attempt by hardliners in Moscow.

Led by A.I. Karmazin, first assistant minister of the Soviet Ministry of Resources, the delegation also includes V.N. Koptevskiy, chief of Department of Asian Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry officials yesterday.

Among the pending issues to be tackled during the working-level meeting is the determination of export amounts on three items—sports shoes, VCR parts and microwave ovens, [and] TDI, a chemical foaming agent.

They will also decide the shipment volume and choose Soviet importers and Korean exporters for synthetic detergent material, textile fabric, and containers, which the Soviet side newly requested to be included.

They will also decide how to deal with the unsolved portion out of the total $800 million loan to avoid disagreement, the officials said.

In their last meeting May 24, the two sides finalized 31 export items, their amounts, and exporting-importing firms. The export contracts for 18 items worth $150 million have already been signed and are awaiting shipment as soon as loan extension procedures between the

Export-Import Bank of Korea and the Soviet External Settlement Bank are completed.

The loan is part of the $3 billion aid package, which breaks down into $1.5 billion worth of consumer goods, $500 million for deferred payment exports of capital goods and $1 billion in bank loans over the next three years.

Seoul has already given bank loans of $500 million and will soon conduct negotiations on repayment terms of another $500 million cash loan, which will be extended between late September and early October, they said.

Seoul To Continue Aid to Soviet Union

SK2508002191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday that the government would proceed with its scheduled economic aid programs for the Soviet Union in the wake of the failed coup there.

Explaining the government's plan to Kim Yong-sam, second in command of his ruling Democratic Liberal Party, No instructed that the party would work out its own plans to support the administration's economic cooperation projects with the Soviet Union.

In his weekly meeting with Kim at Chongwadae, No observed that Seoul-Moscow ties will be further strengthened following Gorbachev's return to power.

"The normalization of the Soviet situation is not only fortunate for the peace and safety of the world, but for ourselves," the President said.

"President Gorbachev's return to power and the restoration of Soviet constitutional order is a historic lesson that the main current of free democracy can not be denied even in the very state where communism was born," No said.

During the hour-long meeting, No told the party's executive chairman to avoid "unnecessary disputes with the administration over the scale of next year's budget."

The government's 1992 budget is scaled at 33.505 trillion won (46,210 billion U.S. dollars), a 24.2 percent increase from this year's.

No stressed that the budget is not an "inflated" one, because the government does not plan to present supplementary budget for next year.

"Next year's budget was compiled on the basis of accurate estimates of tax earnings, contrary to those in the past, and is aimed at a host of national tasks such as expansion of indirect social capital and technology development," the President said.

Kim told No that he was canceling his trip to Malaysia and Singapore after accompanying the president to the U.N. next month and would return directly home from New York for the National Assembly session.

Kim Tae-chung Cancels Trip to Soviet Union

SK2408061091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 23 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung will leave here for New York on Sept. 22 to be at the U.N. General Assembly when North and South Korea join the world body as the 160th and 161st members.

Kim cancelled a trip to Moscow on his way to New York and instead will visit Germany and Poland on his way home, said Kim Pong-ho, the opposition leader's assistant for political affairs.

Kim Tae-chung will hear President No Tae-u address the United Nations on Sept. 24 and leave for Germany on Sept. 26. In Poland, he is to meet with President Lech Walesa.

DLP Leaders View Soviet Events

SK2608061091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0441 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is reluctant to comment on moves to dissolve the Soviet Communist Party, but the Korean ruling party was ebullient Monday, predicting it would be good for Seoul-Moscow ties.

"Nobody can stop this trend. It will spread to all the world soon. We hope the Soviet Union will take discreet steps for the success of reform and opening," said a statement issued by Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] spokesman Rep. Pak Hui-tae.

"The decision to dissolve the Communist Party basically conforms to the direction of historical evolution. It means yet another emancipation. We believe the trend will favorably affect relations between Korea and the Soviet Union."

DLP No. 2, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, said disbandment would give decisive momentum to the Soviet Union's march toward free democracy.

All nations of the free world should cooperate so democracy took root in the Soviet Union, Kim said.

Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, DLP secretary-general, said the changes would in the Soviet Union have a tremendous shock on North Korea.

Rep. Hwang Pyong-tae said North Korean President Kim Il-song had now lost his spiritual support.

Kim Yun-hwan and Hwang agreed it was possible that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's rapid reform drive might trigger repercussions by communist forces.

Exports to Soviet Union Projected at $800 Million

SK2408061491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean exports to the Soviet Union will jump 54.1 percent to 800 million U.S. dollars this year from 519 million dollars last year, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Saturday.

Soviet purchases of daily necessities, textiles, footwear, and household appliances, in which Korea has a competitive edge, will receive an unexpected boost from the collapse of the coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, KOTRA said.

Based on declared exports of 290 million dollars as of the end of July, KOTRA said, economic cooperation fund exports will amount to 500 million dollars this year.

Ordinary exports were 214 million dollars in the first half and will be 100 million dollars in the second half, meaning total exports will come to 800 million dollars this year, KOTRA said.

The original goal, however, was 1.1 billion dollars.

Soviet Ocean Research Vessels To Call on Pusan

SK2408003291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] Two Soviet ocean research vessels will make a port call at Pusan port today to carry out joint oceanbed research with researchers at the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI).

The 1,157-ton Professor Gagalinskiy and 776-ton Morskoy Geofizik of the Institute of Marine Geology and Geophysics at the Soviet Science of Academy left Vladivostok on Aug. 8 and have conducted the first phase of a oceanographic survey in the East Sea. Aboard the two ships are two KORDI researchers.

The second phase of the survey of the geological structure of the Ullung Basin in the East Sea will be conducted Aug. 26-Sept. 8, jointed by KORDI researchers.

The research results will be shared by the two countries, according to Sok Tong-chol, chief of the KORDI Marine Geophysics Laboratory.

Dailies Report Kim Yong-nam Visit to PRC

SK2608014091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Hong Kong, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam is in Beijing on a secret visit that is thought to be linked to developments in the Soviet Union, Hong Kong newspapers reported Sunday.

The pro-Beijing TA KUNG PAO reported a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met Kim at the Daioyutai State Guest House in the capital to discuss mutual concerns on Saturday.

He didn't say when Kim arrived or how long he would stay, just that Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang invited him and his entourage to a banquet, the TA KUNG PAO said.

The MING PAO reported that Kim arrived in Beijing unnanounced on Friday and it was thought that conversation centered on the collapse of the coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and subsequent happenings in the Soviet Union.

It also said Kim and Qian appear to have discussed North Korea's acceptance of international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Albania, Seoul Sign Agreement To Normalize Ties

SK2608001791 Seoul YONHAP in English 2355 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, Albania, Aug. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Albania have agreed to normalize ties, giving South Korea full diplomatic links with all countries in the East bloc.

Sin Tu-byong, South Korean ambassador to Yugoslavia, and Albanian vice foreign minister on Aug. 22 jointly signed an agreement to normalize ties, officials here said Sunday.

Albania, closely allied to North Korea and the last remaining East bloc nation yet to recognize Seoul, will become South Korea's 149th nation to set up official ties.

South Korea made its first diplomatic overture to East bloc when it normalized ties with Hungary in February 1989.

Envoy Interviewed on Relations With Albania

SK2608043591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, Albania, Aug. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Normalization of relations between South Korea and Albania will do more to bring about reforms in North Korea than Seoul's setting up ties with any other nation, the South Korean ambassador to Yugoslavia predicted Monday.

Amb. Sin Tu-pyong and Albanian Vice Foreign Minister Mhill Marku signed a protocol to establish diplomatic relations between their countries here last week.

"Setting up official ties with Albania, which has been one of the most tightly closed nations along with North Korea, ties the knot on the first phase of South Korea's nordpolitik," Sin said in an interview with YONHAP News Agency.

"The remaining task now is to develop complementary, concrete relations with Albania and all other East-Bloc countries that will bring realistic, mutual benefits," the ambassador said.

Albania, a staunch ally of North Korea, was the last East-Bloc nation to recognize South Korea.

Past efforts at diplomatic normalization were hindered by Albania's turbulent domestic conditions, Sin said.

On June 12, Albanian Prime Minister Ylli Bupi announced to parliament that he planned to normalize ties with South Korea. Sun after, the Albanian Embassay in Yugoslavia suggested that a South Korean delegation visit Tirana.

A South Korean economic delegation visited Tirana in April.

"Albania has only three embassies in Asia—China, Vietnam and North Korea. This shows how close Albania and North Korea are," Sin said.

"Diplomatic normalization with Albania is likely to have a stronger influence than that with any other nation to breathe in winds of reforms to North Korea. It will be a catalyst for North Korea's opening of its society and Korean unification," the ambassador said.

When asked whether Albania hesitated in linking up with South Korea because of North Korea, Sin said Albania's position was clear from the start.

"Albania made clear that Seoul-Tirana ties are strictly a bilateral issue. Actually, once Albanian officials decided to normalize ties with South Korea, they were more aggressive and even pressed for our visit to Tirana," Sin said.

Economic cooperation was the brightest aspect of future Seoul-Tirana relations, Sin said, with South Korea providing investment and forming joint ventures to develop Albania's nickel, copper and petroleum resources.

Albania can be a gateway to Europe, he said.

Representative Named for Libyan Waterway Ceremony

SK2408035591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (YONHAP)—Former Trade and Industry Minister Kum Chin-ho will represent South Korea in the water channeling ceremony for the first stage of Libya's great man-made river project, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Muhammad Ahmad al-Manguz, secretary of the great man-made river project authority, paid a courtesy call on President No Tae-u early last week to deliver a personal letter from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In the letter, al-Qadhdhafi invited No to the Aug. 28 ceremony and expressed his gratitude for the contribution made by Korean workers to convert a desert into a fertile land.

Dong-ah Construction Industrial Co. has worked on the project since 1984, building a 1,095-kilometer-long concrete channel from Sarir in southeastern Libya to Bengasi in the North.

Lucky-Goldstar Sells TVs to Czechoslovakia

SK2608071991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. of South Korea has sold 39,000 semi-finished Lucky-Goldstar brand color television sets to Czechoslovakia for 9 million U.S. dollars.

A company spokesman said the deal is for 14,000 14-inch sets and 25,000 21-inch sets and shipment will begin late this month.

APEC To Discuss Basic Document

SK2508014891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Aug 91 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] Twelve Asia-Pacific countries will meet in the historic Korean city of Kyongju this week to take up several difficult questions concerning the future of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Among major issues on the agenda of the two-day meeting of assistant minister or director-general-level officials from the 12 APEC member countries will be the adoption of a document which embraces basic principles and the scope of activities of the forum.

Korea, which chairs APEC, proposed the adoption about one month ago, and has had informal consultations with other members on it. The members are six ASEAN countries, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Most countries have showed favorable responses to the proposal, and the Korean government plans to present a draft at the Kyongju meeting.

If the officials reach consensus, the document will be formally adopted at the third APEC ministerial conference in Seoul in November.

"We are pushing the scheme without prejudice for institutionalization of APEC," said Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Si-yong who chairs the third senior officials meeting (SOM) in Kyongju, Aug. 28-29.

Institutionalization of APEC has been a thorny issue among the 12 members since the first ministerial conference in Canberra in November, 1989.

Almost two years have passed since then, but the dominant opinion is still that "it is too early to talk about it."

"The members discussed the issue whenever they met but have not reached any conclusion," Yi said.

Officials say that the 12 APEC members are largely divided into two on the matter. Six ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries are generally passive in taking steps for institutionalizing the APEC forum mainly out of their concern about the possible conflicts between ASEAN and APEC.

"It is true that ASEAN members are cautious. Rather than making APEC an institution right now, they prefer a step-by-step pragmatic approach," Yi said.

But diplomatic observers in Seoul view that these APEC countries will not be able to avoid the fundamental question for very long if they want to keep this forum.

One option for them is to make APEC a formal OECD-type organization with a secretariat. Another is to follow the example of the Group of Seven meeting.

More countries seem in favor of the latter option now but to operate APEC in that way may not always be effective because of the extensive membership of the forum, observers view.

Another important issue to be tackled at the Kyongju meeting will be participation by China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

APEC members already agreed to admit them during the second ministerial conference in Singapore in 1990, but these countries have not joined it for their failure to find a formula agreeable to all of them.

Assistant Foreign Minister Yi said he has met officials of the three countries five times in Seoul and other capitals but still failed to conclude the matter mainly because of the different positions of the three over procedural details.

Yi, however, expected the three countries to reach a compromise soon in view of their enthusiasm in joining the APEC forum.

Also to be discussed during the Kyongju meeting is whether to admit the Soviet Union, Mexico and Chile as observers, according to Yi.

But it is hard to predict the outcome of the discussion because of some problems, he said.

Several APEC members still do not accept the Soviet Union as a full market economy, which is a qualification for APEC membership.

They also put to question the membership of Mexico and Chile not only for their geographical distance but also for their distant economic linkage with the APEC countries. Acceptance of the two countries, though as observers, may also raise another question—whether to expand membership to all South American countries, he said.

A few other countries including Colombia have already expressed hopes for joining the forum.

Trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region, which was a main topic for the second APEC meeting in Cheju last spring is not likely to be discussed much this time.

Many member countries want to delay the issue until after progress in the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, Yi said.

Assembly Head Cites Support for Asia-Pacific

SK2608065491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0448 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the South Korean National Assembly, said Monday that his counterparts in Japan and Indonesia agreed in principle with his proposal for an Asia-Pacific speakers conference.

The first meeting would be either on Korea's southern island of Cheju or in Hawaii late this year and its formal title would be the Asia-Pacific assembly leaders' conference, Pak said on returning from a tour of the two nations.

"With Diet leaders in Japan, I discussed the participation of North Korea and China. The Japanese leaders promised to sound out China's intention when a delegation visits Beijing in November," he said.

"North Korea's intention to take part in the proposed conference will be found out by Japanese Liberal Democratic Party and Socialist Party Diet members through the proper channels," Pak said.

Pak met Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Indonesian President Suharto and speakers of both countries to talk about the conference and cooperation among Asia-Pacific nations during his 10-day trip.

Pak was accompanied by Rep. Kim Yong-pae, floor leader of the main opposition New Democratic Party, and four other national assemblymen.

DLP Plans To Keep Single-Seat Constituency

SK2408010291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] plans to keep the present single-seat constituency system of electing one lawmaker from each electorate while withdrawing its scheme for the adoption of the multi-seat system.

The DLP plans to present this position as official party policy in negotiations with the main opposition New Democratic Party beginning late this month, according to the DLP.

It will have consultative meetings with government authorities in a bid to correct defects of the present single-seat system and finally set its party policy on the issue in a meeting of party leaders early next week.

It is expected the DLP will see interparty conflict in setting its policy on the issue as some lawmakers from the "Mingchong" faction led by co-chairman Pak Tae-chun and most local district chapter heads in the Cholla-do provinces, the power base of the NDP, are strongly opposed to the present system.

The party earlier planned to adopt the multi-seat system pending negotiations with the NDP in an attempt to ensure clean and fair elections and erase chronic "parochialism."

But the ruling party reportedly decided to keep the single-seat system through a series of consultations between itself and the Cabinet, concluding that it will be difficult for the DLP to remain the majority party in terms of parliamentary seats if the multi-seat system is adopted.

The DLP also concluded that multi-seat system will require larger sums of money during election campaigns.

Kim Tae-chung Urged To Sacrifice for Merger

SK2608071791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Nineteen opposition lawmakers Monday called on opposition leader Kim Tae-chung to make "a self-sacrificial resolution" to unite South Korea's opposition forces.

The opposition was headed for defeat in upcoming elections unless unity could be established, they said in a "declaration on opposition merger and establishment of an opposition party ready to take over government power."

The 19 are nine members of "the political development research club" of Kim's New Democratic Party and all 10 lawmakers of the splinter Democratic Party.

"We are keenly aware that it is impossible to unify the opposition forces without the positive will and self-sacrificial resolution of the most influential opposition leader... The devastating defeat the opposition suffered in the local council elections in June foretold that the democratic forces, unless united, would again be defeated in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections," they said.

"All opposition forces should realize that, without opposition integration, it is impossible to overcome the regional antagonism marring the nation, to protest the high-handed ruling party, or to transfer political power to a democratic government."

Government Sets 1992 Budget at 33.5 Trillion Won

SK2408012091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Friday the government has drawn up a budget for 1992 of 33.505 trillion won (46.213 billion U.S. dollars), a 24.2 percent increase from this year, and will begin budget negotiations with the ruling party on Monday.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, told reporters that internal tax revenue was estimated at 28.945 trillion won, a 25.4 percent increase, customs duty revenue at 3.487 trillion won, up 4.3 percent, and non-tax revenue 1.011 trillion won, a 19.2 percent gain.

He put defense surtax at 62 billion won even though the tax itself will be scrapped next year and said allocations to local governments will nearly double to 1.1 trillion won from 557 billion won.

The budget is a 24.2-percent increase from this year, or 6.8 percent if the two supplementary budgets are counted.

Next year's tax spending will stress infrastructure expansion, agricultural investment, manufacturing and technological competitiveness and environmental improvement, Choe said.

He said there will be no supplementary budgets next year due to a lack of money.

"There will be approximately a trillion-won surplus in internal taxes this year, but it will be allocated to funds for monetary management. There will be no resources for supplementary budgets next year," he said.

On growing calls that the government reduce defense spending, Choe said it was too early to reflect the political mood of reconciliation in the budget.

"The Cold War has come to an end between East and West, and tension is easing between South and North Korea, but it is too early to reflect these developments realistically in the defense budget," he said, indicating that the defense budget will at least match last year's 12.4-percent hike.

New Export Incentive for Small Firms Planned

SK2308140991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1116 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 23 (YONHAP)—The government plans to launch a new export incentive next year to remove fears of non-collection on shipments to countries with low financial credit, a senior government official said Friday.

First Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry Yu Tokhwan said in a conference of export business officials Friday that the "export credit assurance" was designed to help efforts of small-and medium-sized firms to diversify the export market.

The incentive enables exporters to receive money from as soon as they submit a document endorsed by the Export-Import Bank of Korea prior to shipments.

Unlike export insurance compensating conditionally 90 percent of a collection failure, the device guarantees 100 percent redemption without condition.

The Ministry is drawing up a standard for selection of exporters and target countries to apply the new incentive with priority given to creditworthy medium- and small-sized firms, Yu said.

Schedule Set for Interest Rate Liberalization

SK2408010391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Aug 91 p 6

[Text] The Korean Government yesterday announced a four-phased schedule for the full liberalization of interest rates in the domestic financial market.

Under the project banks overdraft interest rates and commercial paper discount rates will be deregulated between the latter half of 1991 and the first half of 1992 the Ministry of Finance said.

Short-term financing companies' discount rates for corporate bills and bankers' acceptance bills plus interest rates on overdue loans will be liberalized during the first-stage.

Deposit rates of banks' CD (certificates of deposits) and securities companies' RP (repurchase agreements) with also be deregulated.

At the same time, deposit rates of corporate bills, bankers' acceptance bills, and commercial papers with a face value of over 30 million won at short-term financing firms will be liberalized during the cited period.

Coupon rates on corporate debentures with a maturity period of more than two years will also be deregulated during the initial stage the ministry said.

The liberalization ratio of lending rates will be 10 percent for banks and 25 percent for the secondary financial institutions and that of deposit rates will be 10 percent and 45 percent respectively at the end of the first phase in June 1992.

In the second stage from the second half of 1992 through the latter half of 1993, the government will deregulate all lending rates at banks and non-banking institutions.

By 1993, long-term deposit rates with a savings period of over two years at first and secondary financial institutions will be liberalized.

Among the financial products whose deposit rates will be deregulated in the second stage are time and installment deposits at banks, mutual savings and finance companies, the ministry said.

Yield rates on corporate debentures with a maturity period of less than two years and financial debentures with a maturity period of over two years, such as Industrial Finance Debentures and Foreign Exchange Debentures will be freely decided according to the market function by 1993.

The ministry aims at achieving a deregulation ratio on lending rates of 75 percent for banks and 100 percent for non-banks, and that of deposit rates at 30 percent and 65 percent respectively.

The central bank's rediscount rate and lending rates of fiscal supports, such as government loans to farmers and fishermen, and special facility credits will be decontrolled in the third stage scheduled for 1994-1996.

During this phase, all deposit rates of financial products with a savings period of less than two years at banks and non-banks will be deregulated, excepting demand deposits.

The ministry is also planning to introduce MMC (money market certificates) a financial product whose interest rate is linked with market interest rates into local banks.

Financial debentures with a maturity period of less than two years and monetary stabilization bonds will also be able to carry free coupon rates before the end of 1996.

At the end of 1996, the deregulation ratio of lending rates will be 100 percent both for banks and non-banks and that of deposit rates will be 70 percent for banks and 90 percent for non-banks.

In the fourth and last stage slated for 1997 and thereafter, the ministry will lift restrictions on deposit rates of all financial products and coupon rates of all national and public bonds, realizing the full liberalization of domestic interest rates.

Funds for Science, Technology To Be Increased

SK2408060591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 24 (YONHAP)—The government will hike investment in science and technology to 3-4 percent of the gross national product by 1996 from 2.1 percent in 1989.

It will not only dish out tax benefits and financial support to promote investment in technology but grant exemptions from military service for people working in research and development [R&D].

To lift specific areas of scientific technology to the level of the group of seven industrialized countries by 2001, the government will launch the G-7 project. This will center on the development of advanced goods.

A coordination committee for the seventh economic development project headed by Vice Economic Planning Minister Kang Hyon-uk made the decision Saturday.

Under the program, the government will increase its R&D funding and put a portion of the costs incurred in undertaking large-scale projects aside for related technology development.

Between 4 percent and 5 percent of the defense budget will be used for R&D in 1996, up from 3 percent this year, and donations and pensions under government control will spent on technological development

The government focus will be on developing an integrated services digital network, high-definition television, an electric car, artificial intelligence, medicines and agricultural chemicals.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Confident on Gorbachev's Future Power

BK2408065091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has expressed confidence that President Mikhail Gorbachev can lead the Soviet Union to a brighter and more prosperous future despite the enormous challenges that lie ahead. He noted that the international policies pursued by President Gorbachev have helped to usher in a new era of international peace and cooperation.

Earlier, the Soviet ambassador to Malaysia Mr. Khmelnitskiy called on the prime minister at his office to brief him on the latest situation in the Soviet Union. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir handed over to the ambassador a letter addressed to Mr. Gorbachev expressing delight that he is safe and has resumed duties.

On behalf of the people of Malaysia, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir wished the president and the Soviet people success, stability and progress.

Ministry on USSR Events, PRC, Western Ties

BK2408094491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0851 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia sympathised with President Mikhail Gorbachev during the recent attempt to overthrow him because he stood for an open economic system, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Saturday.

President Gorbachev's leadership had given Malaysia an opportunity to forge closer trade links with the Soviet Union, he told reporters after delivering a keynote address on Malaysia's foreign policy at the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) [University of North Malaysia], in the northern state of Kedah.

Despite its internal problems, the Soviet Union could still play an influential role in international politics, Abdullah Badawi said.

Apart from the Soviet Union, Malaysia also had good relations with China.

The Soviet Union and China, two big countries, offered new trade and economic opportunities which should be grasped speedily, he added.

Malaysia looked upon China as a good trading partner and had set up the joint Malaysia-China Trade Commission to enhance bilateral trade, he said.

Apart from maintaining its traditional close relations with Britain, the United States, Japan and its ASEAN partners, Malaysia should also foster new links with countries of Eastern Europe, he added.

In his address, Abdullah said Malaysia should be prepared to face the possibility of losing some of the trade preferences given to it by developed countries.

"As a developing country, we are now getting such preferences, but as we develop further such preferences may not be forthcoming anymore," he added.

He expected Malaysians involved in the economic and trade sectors to play a bigger role in the country's international relations which in the past was dominated by diplomats and government officials.

The successful democratic process in Eastern Europe might lead to the rechannelling of some of the resources and opportunities meant for nations of the south, Abdullah Badawi said.

"While we rejoice with the democratisation of the countries of Eastern Europe, we should also remember that they will become our competitors in getting foreign investments and trade opportunities," he said.

Vietnam Refugees' Transfer To Begin Sep

BK2408103591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Aug 91 p 7

[By Azmi M. Anshar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—The process of closing down Pulau Bidong will begin once construction of new longhouses and a three-storey building at the Sungai Besi refugee transit camp is completed at the end of next month.

The 5,200 refugees will be transferred out of the island in batches, depending on the availability of accomodation at the Sungai Besi camp, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] deputy representative here, Mr. Sten Bronee, said today.

He said the camp expansion programme, which was in its first phase, started in June and was being carried out by the Government and the UNHCR.

He added that the programme would continue until all the refugees on the island were moved out to join the 7,600 refugees already in the Sungai Besi camp.

He welcomed Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba's announcement on Saturday that [17 Aug] Pulau Bidong is to be closed, saying that the UNHCR was in favour of the closure because of the difficulties in managing refugees on an island.

However, he said it was not possible to transfer all the refugees from Pulau Bidong at one go because the Sungai Besi camp with its 7,600 refugees has reached its full capacity.

He also said about 8,500 refugees have been screened to determine whether they left Vietnam due to political and religious persecution or for economic reasons.

Under screening conditions set by the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees (ICIR), boat people arriving in first asylum countries like Malaysia before the March 14, 1989, "cut-off" date were guaranteed resettlement in third countries, but those who landed after the date were "screened" to determine whether they were political refugees or those who left for economic reasons.

Mr. Bronee said until July 13, 1,800 Vietnamese were found to be real refugees and their names forwarded for resettlement to third countries.

However, applications from 4,600 Vietnamese for resettlement have been rejected and they would have to return to their homeland.

The remaining 2,100 will know the results of their screening in a few weeks.

Meanwhile, a Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) spokesman said all transfers of refugees from the island would be handled by the society using its boats and buses.

He said transferring Vietnamese refugees from Pulau Bidong to Kuala Terengganu by boat and then from the town to the Sungai Besi camp have become a "routine" matter.

Pulau Bidong is located about 15 nautical miles off the Terengganu coast and a MRCS boat, which can carry between 60 and 80 refugees, takes about one and a-half hours to make the trip.

Malay Support for Opposition Leader Viewed

BK2408063991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Aug 91 p 7

[Article by M.G.G. Pilli under the rubric "ASEAN Viewpoint," entitled "The Tengku Waiting in the Wings"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—The Malaysian prime minister, Dato' Seri Mahathir Mohamed, in his calmer moments, must wonder about the political resilience of his principal opponent and former colleague, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

The newspapers and magazines, but for a few Malay-language political weeklies, and radio and television virtually ban the 54-year-old prince, an uncle of the Sultan of Kelantan, from their news columns except when he or his party runs into problems. Supporters desert him for Dato' Seri Mahathir's UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Baru (New UMNO), the main party in the ruling National Front coalition, often because banks threaten to foreclose if they did not; as UMNO members, many had taken loans without collateral, which they cannot now repay.

The Malaysian view of him and his Semangat '46 (Spirit of '46) political party is of one in disarray. The party is a junior partner, with little power, in the governing coalition, with the fundamentalist theocratically-inclined Pan Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), in Kelantan state. It has only six members of parliament. Newspapers routinely highlight the erosion from his ranks, often of ranking members.

He lost ground in the public eye when PAS declined to honour its electoral pact with Semangat '46 to defeat UMNO Baru in Kelantan. They swept all 39 state assembly seats, but PAS, with 26, could form the state government on its own; it was with difficulty that Semangat '46 ensured its nominee as one of two deputy mentris besar (chief ministers). Since the elections last November, one member of parliament and two state assemblymen defected to UMNO Baru.

Yet his reputation could not be higher among the rural Malay folk on whom he and Dato' Seri Mahathir depend on for their political base and support. Despite publicised defections from his ranks, a steady trickle of new members continue to augment his support. He draws large crowds around the country, even if his visits are rarely advertised. His crowd-pulling power and his potential threat forces Information Ministry officials and vans to turn up, as a matter of course, a day or so after his visit, to counter his arguments and presence.

The Western and urban perception is of Dato' Seri Mahathir in absolute control, with Tengku Razaleigh fighting a losing battle. But the Malay community, which dominates politics in Malaysia, regard him as a serious contender. In the convoluted political machinations that the Malays are famous for, he is even seen as an eventual successor to Dato' Seri Mahathir as prime minister. On the surface, it is difficult to see how, even if the deputy prime minister, Mr Abdul Ghafar Baba, talks of a position for the Tengku in the UMNO Baru hierarchy.

Dato' Seri Mahathir does not like this kind of talk. He is determined to ensure that Tengku Razaleigh not enter the government now or ever. Despite his public support for Mr Ghafar, he prefers someone like Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the finance minister, to succeed him. Ironically, it was Tengku Razaleigh who, in 1981, weaned Dato' Seri Anwar away from fundamentalist Islamic politics and PAS towards UMNO. But Dato' Seri Anwar does not want him back in the fold. Besides, the Malays prefer Dato' Seri Mahathir to remain prime minister. The Tengku hopes that would change when the prime minister leaves.

Malay politics is in a state of flux, especially since the UMNO party that dominated politics between 1946 and 1987 was de-registered and two parties formed in its stead: Dato' Seri Mahathir's UMNO Baru and Tengku Razaleigh's Semangat '46; but neither has the full support of the Malay community. And the federal distancing of opposition-controlled states—Kelantan and Sabah—is a warning to the other states to expect no help if they voted in opposition governments.

The Kelantan and Sabah chief ministers are not invited to the conference of chief ministers. This continues to widen the alienation between the states and the centre, especially in Peninsular Malaysia, where the Malays dominate politically.

The federal ministers go often to Kelantan, a predominantly Malay state, and to Sabah, to second-guess the state administration. the youth and sports minister, Senator Annuar Musa, is virtually federal minister for Kelantan. Federal subsidies, disbursed through the state, are now given directly by federal ministers and ministries. The impact of this in Kelantan is a cynicism that does not bode well for Kuala Lumpur. The federal pressures come amidst a state demand for less interference from Kuala Lumpur, a demand that the centre is disinclined to allow.

Politics, especially among the Malay community, has become a fight for perennial control. This dominates the politial scene because the Malay community controls politics. There is a shift in Malay thinking as well. Those in the urban areas think of metropolises and industrialised societies, those in the rural areas and the smaller towns for a traditional quality of life, with a gradual upliftment of their economic status. UMNO Baru represents the former and Semangat '46 the latter.

So, federal decisions that punish those who vote for the opposition only widens the rift between the government in Kuala Lumpur and those in the states. The last time this happened in Kelantan, the PAS state government kept UMNO and the federal coalition out of power from 1959 to 1978. And this was during more relaxed times. Ironically, Tengku Razaleigh's political rise came as he led the campaign to destabilise the PAS government in Kelantan.

What stunts Tengku Razaleigh's attempt is his lack of organisation. He behaves, often, like a patriarch dispensing largesse to his flock; those who do not get them are unhappy and some of those who do, like Mr Ibrahim Ali, the member of parliament from Kelantan, desert him.

A case before the courts would decide if two elected state assemblymen from Kelantan were ever members of Semangat '46. It came about from a retroactive Kelantan state law, passed after the November general elections, which requires any state assemblyman who changed political parties to test their support in a by-election. The two by-elections are called for later this month, but the two men are not given much of a chance to be re-elected as UMNO Baru members.

In Malaysia, where the government and the National Front coalition control the major newspapers, and radio and television stations, opposition parties do not have a hearing in them. They, therefore, depend on party organs, like the Democratic Action Party's Rocket and PAS's Harakah. Parliamentary coverage is so tendentiously selective that opposition members, to be heard, post copies of their speeches to constituents and to those interested to make their views known.

What keeps the Tengku's political campaign alive is his plaintive claim to the Malay community, with some justification, that it was Dato' Seri Mahathir who split them and UMNO. Dato' Seri Mahathir formed UMNO Baru in 1987 after he narrowly defeated the Tengku for the party presidency; the Tengku and the older leaders, including the two then-living former prime ministers, Tengku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn, formed Semangat '46.

Even if Semangat '46 had not done well in the polls, its support among the Malays worries UMNO Baru. Moreover, Semangat '46-led multiracial coalition, Gagasan Rakyat (People's Front), begins to unnerve the National Front, even if it is still a long way from being an alternative government.

Dato' Seri Mahathir, 65, in control, clearly has the edge but Malays begin to look at a future without him. His health is good, but the after-effects of his coronary bypass operation three years ago, and his occasional unexplained fainting spells, does mean that he would have to step down at least after the next UNMO Baru party elections in 1993. Even then, only if he is certain that the Tengku would be denied power, now or ever. The two men dislike each other, personally and politically.

If Mr Ghafar, on becoming prime minister, does not appoint Dato' Seri Anwar as his deputy, then Dato' Seri Mahathir hopes it would be Datuk Kusa Hitam, the former deputy prime minister, That would block the Tengku's chances. But Dato Musa's problem is that his political base has eroded gradually since he left office in a pique in 1987. The Tengku watches all these from the sidelines with an increasing confidence that cannot but worry UMNO Baru.

Semangat 46 Candidate Wins Kelantan By-Election

BK2408141691 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] The first result of the Kelantan state by-election has been announced. It is for the Limbungan constituency. Encik [Mr.] Abdul Samat Mamat of Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46] polled 5,808 votes. The Barisan Nasional Haji Wan Mohamed Najib Wan Mohamed polled 4,248, and the Independence Mat Hassan Jusoh—60, and the other Independence Mohamed alias Afandi Hassan—26.

There were 92 spoiled votes, and the percentage of turnout was 74.08.

Cambodia

'Remains' of MIA Serviceman Given to U.S.

BK2408051691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0427 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 24—The government handed over the remains of what was believed to be an American missing in action (MIA) to a U.S. delegation for further analysis.

The hand-over took place in Phnom Penh Friday between Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo and William Jordan, special advisor to the U.S. defence secretary.

William Jordan, who led a U.S. technical mission in search for remains of MIAs in Indochina arrived here Thursday morning on an official visit to Cambodia.

In a meeting with Deputy Interior Minister Khim Pon, who is also president of the MIA commission of the State of Cambodia, William Jordan thanked the Cambodian Government for permitting his team to search for the MIA remains.

For his part, Khim Pon said that the government of the State of Cambodia is always ready to closely cooperate with the U.S. Government in solving this humanitarian issue.

Hun Sen Receives U.S. Senator Kerry

BK2408095191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] On August 21st at 1300, a U.S. Senate delegation led by John Kerry, Democrat senator and chairman of the Senate Committee in charge of U.S. servicemen missing in the Vietnam war, arrived by car from Ho Chi Minh City for a visit to Cambodia.

On the same day at 1500, the delegation paid a courtesy call and held working talks with Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the office of the Council of Ministers. Present on the occasion were Comrade Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Uch Kim-an, deputy minister attached to the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Theam Chhun-i, head of the Foreign Ministry's America Department.

First of all, John Kerry thanked the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers for meeting the delegation and asked the comrade chairman to assess the prospects of the coming Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting. The comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers informed John Kerry that the SNC meeting can make further progress and that the State of Cambodia side is ready to make concessions so that peace will come quickly to the Cambodian people. However, the comrade chairman made it clear that there should by all means concrete be measures to prevent the return of the past catastrophe and that the maintenance of troops until elections is an appropriate measure.

On this occasion, John Kerry informed the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers that he and a number of friends have been persistently fighting for U.S. humanitarian aid for the State of Cambodia. He also raised the issue of missing U.S. servicemen, which is being revived due to pictures published in various magazines, saying that there are still U.S. war prisoners still living in Indochina. On this issue, John Kerry proposed cooperation to solve this issue definitively.

VOK Reports Sihanouk-Solomon Meeting

BK2408073291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], said he wants all four Cambodian parties' armies dissolved and a young and new national army set up and trained by the United Nations. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's appeal corresponds to the U.S. stance on a compromise over the armed forces issue.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said this in a meeting yesterday with Richard Solomon, U.S. Assistant Secrertary of State in charge of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Solomon said Washington has the same stance as Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on the dissolution of the all four Cambodian parties' armies. Solomon said Samdech Norodom Sihanouk specifically discussed two issues with him: SNC sovereignty, and the dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' armies. Richard Solomon said Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's clarifications of these two issues are of great importance.

Solomon said that concerning the dissolution of the four Cambodian parties' armies, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said his final goal is to completely dissolve all four Cambodian parties' armies and set up a new and clean national army, which is the nation's only army, after the completion of general and free elections in Cambodia. Officers and troops of Cambodia's new national army will be trained by the United Nations. Solomon said Samdech Norodom Sihanouk specifically noted to him that the samdech's final goal is the complete dissolution of all parties' armed forceas and the establishment of a new national army trained by the United Nations.

The tripartite Cambodian resistance parties have earlier fully supported the UN peace plan which calls for the disarming and complete dissolution of all Cambodian parties' armies. However, the Hun Sen side opposed this measure.

Asked about the U.S. stance on the dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' armies, Solomon said the United States first wants to see what kind of concencus is agreed upon by the four Cambodian parties; however, the United States has already adhered to the stance that the only way that genuinely ensures security for the Cambodian people is the establishment of a new Cambodian national army. He said the United States hopes that the four Cambodian parties and all parties involved would agree with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's initiative.

VOK Previews SNC Meeting in Phatthaya

BK2608080191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] The delegates of the four Cambodian parties to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting have already arrived in Phatthaya and the meeting will start at 1500 on 26 August under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC.

A number of issues will be discussed at this round of talks, including the 26 November 1990 draft agreement worked out by the five major powers, the permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC].

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Hun Sen's faction asked that the draft agreement be amended, including some points that are contrary to the peace plan, which is the framework document already accepted by the faction.

The three resistance parties have already fully endorsed the draft agreement and this round of meetings is expected to succeed if Mr. Hun Sen's faction does not insist on amending the points that run counter to the UN framework document already accepted by all the parties.

Upon his arrival in Thailand, Mr. Hun Sen said his faction had reduced his Armed Forces by 80 percent. On this issue, His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said this was contrary to the UN framework document that Mr. Hun Sen's own faction has already accepted. [as heard] His Excellency Son Sann said that if Mr. Hun Sen's faction willingly accepts the UN framework blueprint, the questions of disarmament, dissolution of the Army, and control and supervision should be carried out in keeping with the UN plan. The roles of the United Nations and SNC should also be determined in accordance with the UN plan.

So far, no conclusion can yet be given on what the outcome of the meeting will be.

Son Sann Admonishes Factions, Views USSR

BK2608051391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Report on interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, by an unidentified Voice of Khmer radio correspondent in Paris previewing the 26-28 August Cambodian Supreme National Council meeting in Phatthaya, Thailand; date of interview not given]

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], made an appeal prior to the SNC meeting in Phatthaya this Monday. In his appeal he urged the four Cambodian factions to ponder their duties to the nation so that this meeting will be successful for the sake of the Cambodian people.

His Excellency Son Sann said this in a Paris, France interview with a Voice of Khmer radio correspondent, who asked him whether he had any hope for the success of the coming SNC meeting in Phatthaya.

In the same interview His Excellency Son Sann said that during their past 12 years of rule over Cambodia, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side have not brought economic, financial, or social progress to Cambodia. He noted that any faction that obstructs the big five countries from helping us must be held responsible for the fate of the Cambodian people and Cambodian history.

Concerning Chinese-Vietnamese relations, His Excellency Son Sann said that as far as he knows, China has told Vietnam that if it wants to normalize relations with China, it should help bring about a Cambodian solution in line with the plan of the big five countries—that is, Vietnam should withdraw all its troops from Cambodia and urge the Hun Sen group to accept the solution worked out by the big five countries.

Concerning the Soviet Union, His Excellency Son Sann said the Soviet Union can no longer help Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side, thus any changes in policy the Soviet Union might make toward Cambodia would be insignificant.

More on Interview

BK2608065991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Report on interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, by an unidentified Voice of the Khmer radio correspondent previewing the 26-28 August Cambodian Supreme National Council meeting in Phatthaya, Thailand; date, place not given]

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], has said that three important matters among the other issues that should be discussed in Phatthaya this Monday 26 August are the request for UN supervision and control over implementation of the cease-fire, the organization of military coordination, and the relations between the United Nations and the Cambodian SNC.

In an interview with a Voice of the Khmer correspondent last week ahead of the Phatthaya meeting, His Excellency Son Sann also called on the four Cambodian parties to understand the real situation in present-day

Cambodia, a country facing serious economic hardship and which experts have listed as the poorest nation on earth.

His Excellency Son Sann said no party should hesitate and cause this or that deviation to block settlement of the Cambodian problem because this would delay the reception of foreign aid for national reconstruction.

Concerning the Soviet issue, His Excellency Son Sann said the defeat of the 70-hour coup d'etat in the USSR showed that the Soviet people no longer want communism, although the Soviet Union is the birthplace of communism.

Radio Echoes Call for UN Force Presence

BK2508023691 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian People Need the Presence of a UN Peacekeeping Force in Cambodia"]

[Text] The countries in the region as well as the international community have already been well aware that Vietnam sent hundreds of thousands of troops to attack and invade Cambodia in late 1978 and continues to overrun and control the country up to now. Vietnam's unwillingness to withdraw from Cambodia means it desires to swallow and incorporate the country into the Vietnamese territory in keeping with its Indochinese federation strategy.

At present, although it is faced with countless difficulties and despite its uncertain pledge to resolve the Cambodian problem, still there is no obvious indication that Vietnam has already consented to relinquish its ambition of annexing Cambodia according to its regional annexation strategy. As a matter of fact, Vietnam, at this time, has not only maintained some 70,000 of its fighters in Cambodia but has also hidden tens of thousands of its aggressor forces in the country. Those forces have been planted among the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian administrators, assimilated in the Cambodian population, incorporated in over one million Vietnamese immigrants in the country, and mixed with the Vietnamese-organized Heng Samrin troops. Those hidden forces are for serving the Vietnamese war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia at present and for serving the strategy of swallowing the country in the long- term. Besides, Vietnam has built a great many bunkers to cache arms and ammunition all over the country with the aim of serving the strategy of annexing Cambodia for a long time.

Because of this situation the Cambodian people and resistance forces have, time and time again, demanded that a UN peacekeeping force be present in Cambodia. The UN peacekeeping force will not only verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia, monitor the cease-fire and cessation of receiving outside military supplies, and promote the implementation of agreements on a comprehensive settlement, but will also ensure that Vietnam will not, in the future, violate the agreements as was the case with the Geneva accord in 1954 and the Paris agreement in 1973.

Only with the presence of the UN peacekeeping force can a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem be definitively achieved, thereby safeguarding lasting peace, security, and stability in the region.

Failed Soviet Coup Linked With SNC Meeting

BK2408085591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Political commentary: "The Defeat of Communist Hardliners in the Soviet Union"]

[Text] The 70-hour coup in the Soviet Union greatly surprised the world and made some Communist hardliners in some other areas, including some hard-headed persons in Hanoi and Phnom Penh, secretly happy and moved with the hope that they could again have a new backer in Moscow. However, the dream of these people dissolved like salt in water when the force fighting for democracy of the Soviet people triumphed over communist hardliners and militarists who relied on tanks. Communist hardliners' coup leaders have been arrested, committed suicide, and been disgraced in front of the Soviet people and all mankind. Does this not confirm the end of hardline communism?

The attempt by coup leaders in Moscow was an attempt to revive hardline communism to oppose President Gorbachev's policies of reforms and liberalization. More than this, these people wanted to suppress the Soviet people's will of wanting freedom and democracy in the country. The Soviet people rose up against a handful of these dictators because they realize that the policy of hardliners has successively failed. Soviet power has declined to an unthinkable level after this great power dispatched troops to commit aggression against Afghanistan in 1979 and assisted Vietnam in the latter's invasion and aggression against Cambodia at the end of 1978. As a result of this policy, the Soviet Union became poor to the point of almost unable to provide food for the population.

Gorbachev's policy of reforms attempts to correct this difficult situation. Gorbachev received the Nobel Peace Prize after ending the Cold War in the world; causing the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe; demolishing the Berlin Wall; getting the Hanoi Vietnamese to announce the withdrawal of troops from Cambodia; and making some hard-headed persons renounce the statement that the situation in Cambodia is irreversible. These are the good traits of Gorbachev and reformist leaders in the Soviet Union.

However, Gorbachev's mission has not yet been accomplished as far as assistance to get peace for Cambodia and for the Cambodian people to enjoy genuine democrac? The Soviet leader should further warn Hanoi and Phnom Penh that they should look at the situation in

Moscow as a model. Communist hardliners should really know the communist doctrine that the wheel of history cannot be moved back. These people should also realize that the wheel of history is turning toward the end of communism, militarism, and dictatorship. Democracy is alive and emerging everywhere. Aggression is being successively defeated. The coming meeting in Phatthaya can be used to gauge how much aggressors, dictators, and hardliners understand and can grasp the world situation.

Laos

Gorbachev's Resignation as Party Leader Reported

BK2608075091 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] In a statement made through the Soviet television station on the evening of 24 August, Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, has announced his decision to resign from the post of general secretary of the CPSU. Mikhail Gorbachev said the Secretariat of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee has not done anything to oppose the coup and that the party Central Committee has failed to resolutely maintain its stand by not denouncing and not opposing the coup, not urging party members to fight against the violation of the Constitution by the coup junta. He also noted that certain members of the party leading committee, party organizations, and party mass media have even supported those who pursued the coup schemes. Such the acts have caused confusion and uneasiness to millions of the party members. Many party members have refused to cooperate with scheme plotters. They have, instead, denounced the coup and joined in the struggle to oppose it. No one can throw the blame on all party members. I myself, in the capacity as the president, am of the view that I have maintained the obligation to save them from being blamed without any proof.

Mikhail Gorbachev noted that in view of the situation, the CPSU Central Committee must approve a difficult, but pure decision, that is, the dissolution of the party's destiny in various republics as well as of grass-roots party organizations. I am of the view that I cannot continue to implement the role as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee any longer. I, therefore, would like to resign from this post. I am convinced that the party members, who have maintained a democratic spirit loyal to the Constitution and who have supported the building of the party on a new basis, the party which can join with progressive forces, will positively take part in the restructuring on the basis of democracy for the benefits of the laboring people.

Leaders Receive Greetings From USSR

BK2308144191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] In mid-August, Kaysone Phomvihan, president of state, and Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a message of congratulations from Mikhail Gorbachev, president, and Pavlov, prime minister of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the election of Kaysone Phomvihan and Khamtai Siphandon respectively as president and new prime minister of the LPDR.

In the message, the Soviet leaders extended sincere congratulations to the two comrades and expressed the conviction that the election by the friendly Lao people on this occasion will contribute to the restructuring in the social life of Laos as well as to the consolidation and perfection of the popular democratic system. They also expressed the hope that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Laos will be further promoted and expanded for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries and in the interest of world peace and security.

The Soviet leaders wished Kaysone Phomvihan and Khamtai Siphandon good health and successes in performing their noble tasks.

Chinese Border Teams Meet in Vientiane 23 Aug

BK2408122491 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Vientiane, August 24 (KPL)—The Lao and Chinese border technical teams yesterday opened here their third-round of talks.

The sides continued their discussions on a solution to border line issues between the two countries following a recent topography survey on the spot along the common border line, which proceeded successfully.

In addition, they would discuss other relevant issues.

The Chinese technical border team led by Colonel Zun Bonien, head of the Cartography Department of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence, on the same day visited Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Soulivong Phasitthidet, head of the Lao-Chinese Border Committee.

Indochinese Mekong Committees End 15th Conference

BK2508103691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Aug 91

["Press release" of Indochinese Mekong committees on outcome of 15th conference in Vientiane; date not given]

[Text] The 15th conference of the national Mekong committees of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam was held in Vientiane on 21-22 August 1991. Attending the conference were the delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Kong Sam-ol, chairman of the National Mekong Project; the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Dr. Kithong Vongsai, chairman of the National Mekong Organization; and the delegation of the SRV led by Tran Khai, vice chairman of the National Mekong Project. Also attending were Nguyen

Xuan, ambassador of the SRV, and Chheang Samkol, charge d'affaires of the State of Cambodia to the LPDR.

The conference praised the efforts of the State of Cambodia to contribute to the setting up of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. It reiterated its support for the SNC's participation in the Mekong organization, and regarded the participation as a significant step leading to the further strengthening of the organization. The conference also heard a news report on activities of the National Mekong Organization of the State of Cambodia and of the interim Mekong organization in the past year.

The three delegations hailed the efforts and cooperation of the three national Mekong organizations in exploiting natural resources in the lower Mekong River basin in the recent years, and unanimously agreed to continue with the efforts and cooperation. The three delegations called on Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member [of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], deputy prime minister, and minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR. They have agreed that the 16th conference of the national Mekong organizations of the three countries will be held in Vietnam.

The delegations of the State of Cambodia and of the SRV expressed sincere thanks to the Lao National Mekong Organization for its warm and friendly welcome accorded to them.

Meeting on Agreements Held With German Delegates

BK2508113991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] A consultative meeting between a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the FRG began in Vientiane on 21 August 1991. In the meeting, the two sides reviewed various agreements which were signed between the LPDR Government and the former GDR Government.

On 21 August, a memorandum on this issue was signed between the two delegations in a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry of the LPDR. Signing for the LPDR Government was Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and signing for the FRG Government was (Gerhard), the ambassador attached to the FRG Foreign Ministry.

Following the consultative meeting on this occasion, a new legal basis has been established. This basis conforms to the practical conditions of the relations and cooperation between the two countries in the present.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Libyan, Burmese Envoys

BK2408122891 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Vientiane, August 24 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice-prime minister, minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], yesterday afternoon granted an audience to Ambassador of Libya to Laos Mr. Salih Muhammad al-Hawshi, who has his residence in Hanoi, Vietnam.

On the occasion, the Libyan ambassador presented to the Lao foreign minister a message from the president of Libya inviting him to attend the inauguration ceremony on August 28 of a grand canal by Libyan people through the desert to the north of the country in service of agriculture and livestock.

Phoun Sipaseut accepted in principle the Libyan president's invitation and conveyed thanks to him.

The Lao foreign minister on the some day afternoon also received a farewell visit by Charge d'Affaires of Myanmar [Burma] to Laos Mr. U Ung Ung, who has completed his diplomatic term here.

Premier Khamtai Congratulated by Thai Counterpart

BK2408115291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received on 23 August a congratulatory message from His Excellency Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The message reads: On the occasion of your excellency's appointment to the post of prime minister of the LPDR, I wish to extend my congratulations to your excellency and wish your excellency good health and success in administering and developing the country for the prosperity of it and the Lao people.

I would like to stress the Thai Government's policy and determination to make tangible and effective efforts to develop and promote close relations in different areas with your excellency's country. I reaffirm that I will consistently cooperate with your excellency in fostering and promoting good relations between the two countries for the happiness and well-being of the peoples of the two countries.

Rice Shortage Expected in Bokeo Due to Floods

BK2308113591 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Vientiane, August 23 (KPL)—322 families in Ton Pheuang District, Bokeo Province, are likely to face rice shortage the whole year as a result of the serious flood during August 12-20, 1991.

The overflown water has inundated 134 ha [hectares] rice fields, 17 ha upland rice cultivation and 45 ha maize plantation. In addition 2.5 kilometres of the river bank has collapsed.

Now the level of the river has gone down from the point 11.20 m.

In compensation for the consequences of the flood, the local adminstration has encouraged the local peasants to do retransplantation, and to plant starchy crops on the damaged upland areas.

Philippines

Reportage on Bases Treaty Developments Continues

Signing Awaits Letter From Bush

HK2408082691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Manila, Aug 24 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino said Saturday that the initialling of a draft treaty extending the stay of U.S. Subic Naval Base in this country awaited only a letter from U.S. President George Bush.

Asked by reporters when the draft treaty would be initialled, Aquino said, "I think by Monday. We are still awaiting the letter of President Bush which will be part of the agreement." However she did not elaborate on the contents of Bush's letter.

She also said she was still meeting with Philippine senators to urge them to ratify the treaty extending the lease of Subic base by 10 years.

The Philippine Senate must vote on the treaty before the current U.S. lease lapses on September 16. If a majority carries out its threat to reject the treaty, Washington has vowed to start withdrawing its forces immediately.

Sixteen of the 23 Filipino senators have said the new treaty would infringe on national sovereignty, allow nuclear weapons into the country, embroil Manila in U.S. conflicts, and pay too little in return.

Aquino also said that Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez would initial the agreement for Manila while newly arrived U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner would initial it for the United States.

The agreement was reported to be ready for initialling last week but officials later said they still had some changes to make.

Meanwhile, a member of Aquino's national security council said there would be "informal arrangements" to inform the Philippine base commander if U.S. nuclear weapons were transitting through Subic.

Alan Ortiz, director-general of the council, said the United States would officially stick to its policy of refusing to confirm or deny the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons on its bases or vessels.

But "one thing I understand from the discussions is that between friends, there will be informal arrangements to inform, to let us know," he said.

The Philippine Constitution bans the presence of nuclear weapons in Philippine territory, a provision anti-U.S. groups say should effectively ban the presence of U.S. bases here.

Ortiz said he fully expected a challenge to the U.S. policy before the Philippine Supreme Court but added that the government was sticking to its previous policy that nuclear weapons could transit through Subic but could not be based there.

Aquino Statement on Bases Treaty

HK2608054991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2300 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Statement by President Corazon Aquino on the new U.S. military bases treaty, followed by a roundtable discussion with media figures and representatives of labor and business groups on the "Ask the President" program on 25 August—recorded; italicized portions in English]

[Text] [Aquino] Beloved countrymen, I have just finished the negotiation between our country and the United States, which signals the start of a new friendship. Various opinions and statements have already been released by different sectors regarding the results of the negotiations. At this point, we should straighten out and clarify these commentaries.

The new treaty which resulted from the negotiations is called "The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security." This is not just a military bases agreement like the one signed in 1947, which, in accordance with our Constitution, will expire 16 September 1991. The military aspect is just part of the said treaty. On the whole, the treaty provides mutual benefits for both sides.

The treaty, in accordance with the national interest of the Filipino people, renders meaning to the most comprehensive outline of our country's relations with the United States. Foremost, this treaty strengthens the real friendship and equal cooperation of the two countries. Aside from this, the treaty also provides for the complete withdrawal of American forces after ten years. By now I am sure that everybody is already aware that the lands or territory being referred to is the Subic Naval Base. Likewise, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the other areas covered by the agreement signed in 1947 have already been returned to the Philippines.

According to the treaty, the Subic Naval Base is a base of the Philippines, and only parts of this can be used by the United States in two ways: First, for exclusive use, and second, for joint use of the United States and our own armed forces. This treaty is a clear and resounding declaration of Philippine sovereignty. This provides that the Philippines has the leadership, control and management of the Subic Naval Base. This totally discards the unequal provisions set in the military bases agreement of 1947.

Aside from these changes the treaty also contains several provisions for different aspects of cooperation between the Philippines and the United States. One of these is a provision that will further expand trade between the two countries. In past years, the United States has increased its purchases of Philippine products while our imports have decreased. Under this treaty, Philippine trade will be much expanded. Article two on economic cooperation states, the treaty will expand trade, strengthen opportunities for investment, including the build, operate, transfer scheme, or BOT. The flow of economic assistance will be expedited. The United States is our largest export market. Last year, the United States bought $3.4 billion worth of Philippine products, while the Philippines bought American products worth only $2.5 billion.

In addition, with the extent of the topics covered by this treaty, both sides deemed it best to establish a high-level program review group, or the PRG, a mechanism which will manage the implementation of the treaty. The PRG is a very important change because it reinforces consultation on economic issues. Through the PRG, the Philippines will have direct involvement in the yearly budgetary process of the United States. Each year, we can express to the United States how they can structure their assistance to us in accordance with the concrete needs of the Philippines.

In the many countries all over the world that host U.S. military bases, only the Philippines and Israel have this management system for implementing treaties. However, now we hear commentaries that this treaty shatters our sovereignty. They say that the existence of American forces violates our sovereignty and is against our nationalism. But the issue of nationalism can never be limited only to issues on the presence of foreign forces in our military bases. Like what we have had already long before, the military bases are not the heart of our economy, nor the soul of our political well-being. The issue of nationalism is in the heart of each one of us. We should clarify that American military bases are not present only in the Philippines. Other countries warmly welcome their relations with the United States and their assistance to the economy and progress. Like these countries, we do not become less Philippine in taking the same course.

The dream of all Filipinos is clear: To be self-reliant and self-propelled toward progress. But due to the huge devastations experienced by our country during past months, many new requirements and bigger problems came into existence. Our present needs call for an immediate and comprehensive response. We will respond to these needs without delay. But if no help is offered by our friends our recovery will become much more difficult. The center of our actions in all areas of our national life, is to consolidate all our efforts and utilize them in the most effective way for the good of the greater majority of our people. One of these efforts is the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security. At this point, I have chosen dialogue with the country through this program and with the help of our friends like Phil Joson, vice president for political affairs of the Federation of Free Workers or FFW, Ernie Garilao of Philippine Business for Social Progress or PBSP, and Mario Garia, station manager of DZNN, Frankie Batacan, director of the Bureau of Broadcasts, and Roger Lagasca of Radyo ng Bayan.

[Aquino] Good evening to all of you. Maybe I should start by asking you what are your positions regarding this treaty. Maybe we can start with Phil Joson.

[Phil Joson, vice president for political affairs of the Federation of Free Workers] Good evening Mrs. President. This issue on the treaty goes back to 1988. Since that time we have already been discussing this within the labor sector, and at that time we were really antibases. The prevailing reason then was national sovereignty. As the years passed we thought about consulting our members again, and this took place in December 1990. We had some changes due to the question of what do we do when the U.S. bases are withdrawn from our country. At that time, we had not yet formed alternative options, so we modified our position by agreeing to a five-year phaseout. These past recent months, in February, we disscussed that again within the labor sector saying that we should think of the people. Nonetheless, we agreed to remain antibases. This was in February and before the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. But because of the huge devastation, our organization is thinking of reopening the issue of the bases treaty and we will be consulting with our members this coming week. We will have a [word indistinct] and we will discuss the treaty again. This is what I can say Mrs. President, we heard that you are able to talk to the senators. Some (senators) are open and some are closed. For what reasons are the positions of some senators closed?

[Aquino] One told me Phil, you know President Cory, ten years ago that this is already my decision, that I am against the presence of U.S. facilities at our bases. And it is difficult to change now. My answer to that is, true all of us have our own stand, maybe ten years ago, but we know that in our world the situation always changes; and we saw that during my administration we had coup attempts, we had a killer earthquake, there was the Gulf crisis, and now this Mt. Pinatubo continues to plague us. Now, I said, maybe ten years ago these senators were not senators. Because we know we did not have the Senate then. And during those times, most of them were in opposition. Maybe their stand at that time could only affect themselves or their families, but could not affect millions of the Philippine citizenry. The change now is that they are senators; the people mandated them to be their voice in Congress. Now, I think this means that true they were voted in 1987, but 'Juan de La Cruz' [the Filipinos] did not say: Hey! Mr. Senator, here is my vote from now until 1992 and whatever you say is okay with me. I think, since this what I call the new politics exists, it is not enough for our senators or our congressmen to be the voice of the people, but rather, every time there is a need to consult, like what Phil is doing with his members, maybe it is also timely for them now to also listen and ask the people: Are you in favor of this treaty, or what do you dislike about this treaty? It cannot be thought that: Ten years ago this was already in my mind so I have to continue with this regardless of what happens. Because, well I don't know with you men, but you promised your wives before: I will love you forever and I will not replace you for anyone. I really hope that was true, but based on what I see and hear, sometimes, your love is not total. Nonetheless, that was only an example and I am not referring to anyone. But I think our senators should think and consult, because our present administration *I'd like to think that we are a government of consultation.* And maybe this is what the people are waiting for: We voted for you but listen to us; we did not give you blanket authority in 1987. So this is my request to the senators. Maybe Ernie, you can also let me know the stand of the PBSP [Philippine Business for Social Progress] with regards to the treaty.

[Ernie Garilao of the PBSP] Mrs. President, we are members of the DNC [expansion unknown] community, a nongovernmental organization [NGO]. If you recall, last December, there was a national peace conference. *That was before Pinatubo.* And the position of the NGO's that participated there *were really antibases. As a matter of fact, it was very clear that the groups there took on an antibases position. But that was before Pinatubo and before all these things that are coming up now. And therefore there is a need now to do the consultations again in so far as what the position should be.* There are three categories of NGO's, Mrs. President. *The first ones are really pro-bases and their issue is compensation. The second one is pro-bases but their issue is the phase out. And the last one is the antibases group. The pro-bases with reference to the compensation,* what I'm asking about that is *under the treaty, it will give us basically something around $300 million for the first year, or roughly around three billion dollars over the ten years.* It also has a beneficial aspect *not related to the bases itself and maybe it may be worthwhile to explain what the extent of these benefits is? And if the treaty is rejected, whether in fact, these benefits would be jeopardized, and what would the effects be or not?* Because that seems to be a big issue and a big point.

[Aquino] Let's go to the issue of compensation. This treaty *is not just a treaty on security, but as I have said, it's a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and security.* Now on the point that the compensation will be $203 million a year, maybe many of us will think that it is too little. But we also have to understand that in the United States they are also phasing out their military bases within the United States itself. And senators and congressmen are explaining to their constituents that their budget has shrunk and so they have to reduce their military bases. Now that was what was explained to me by Ambassador Pelaez, our ambassador to Washington.

He said: You know, it is really difficult to explain everything on the compensation with regards to the bases. But maybe, what we can explain to our people is that because this is a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and security, *on the matter of friendship and cooperation,* we know that the United States is our number one trading partner and just like what I have said before, *the balance of trade is in our favor.* This is very seldom, because more often the trade balance is in favor of the other country, especially countries from which we import our oil. But what I would like to tell our people is this, at this time, all countries are striving to have as many friends as possible. It's no longer like in the past when we said: Okay, it's just us and let's just be in charge of this. This is so, *because of modern communications, and everything has really changed. You can visit another continent in a matter of hours. Communication between countries is really very fast now.* For instance just last week, I was visited by the members of parliament from the PRC. And I was explaining to them that we have existing relations on trade and investments with our neighboring countries. And they told me that we should not worry because the PRC itself already has an existing trade with Taiwan to the amount of four billion dollars. That's what they told me. And they also said that the third largest investor in the PRC is Taiwan. Well, we know that before, the PRC and Taiwan did not really talk to each other. Then, we also know that before, we had what we call the cold war, and the United States of America did not relate with the USSR. Now, we in the Philippines, true, we already have many friend countries [as heard], but this is what I always tell our trade secretary: Look for other countries with whom we can establish trade even if it is just small at the start. We can just build it up in the succeeding years. Because also, I do not like the idea of our depending only on the United States and Japan for our trade. It is better that we find other countries where we can sell our products. So what I want to tell our people is this, the United States is already our friend. And we can see that everyone wants to make friends with other countries, so why would we discard our friendship? We can help each other. That is how it is with the world. *No one really, can stand alone. We really have to continue helping each other.* You always hear me talk about Kabisig [partnership]. So at this time, especially because of Mt. Pinatubo, let us not aggravate our condition here. And I always ask the senators: If you really don't like this treaty, please give me an alternative. Because I cannot just say to the people: Please have patience because it is better to separate from America so we will be stronger and more nationalistic. And that is difficult *when 60 percent of our people are living below the poverty line.* I cannot tell them: Sacrifice more because in the end we Filipinos will become stronger. For myself I can say that, because I have not yet experienced what most of these 60 percent of our people are experiencing. If our senators can give me a concrete program that will respond to the needs of the people, especially to the requirements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, maybe, I will also agree with what they like. But if they cannot present to me a program, and I want a program effective 17 September, they should not tell me: Okay 17 September of the year 2000 or whatever; how can that be when *I hold this responsibility and obligation to our people, to take care of* *their needs and to do my very best in order to address their concerns.* So maybe, I won't be saying this just to the politicians, just like your colleagues in nongovernment organizations, that is what I will tell them: *Maybe at this time, because we are really left with a very sure alternative, in fact there is no single concrete alternative that I can present to our people, because of... [Aquino changes thought] primarily this Mt. Pinatubo really devastated our country.* Now, let me ask Mario because I know that many are calling you to express their sentiments and positions on the treaty. Maybe you can share them with us and with our listeners.

[Mario Garia of DZNN] Many on and off-air callers, and prior to the Pinatubo crisis they were conveying to us their strong opposition to the bases. But there were many changes after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Their opposition to the bases prior to the Pinatubo eruption was centered, not only on the compensation which you have already explained, but they were opposed also because of the perception that the Philippines is being insulted by American soldiers' treatment of Philippine women; that before any probe takes place the soldier has already been transferred to another base and they can escape. But *this not withstanding Mrs. President,* after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption we already received feedback from the station, even from my former ABS [ABS-CBN] station and from my present DZNN station at Radio Veritas, that it had become a fact that, [Garia changes thought] they have accepted the fact that the country should come first. We should first attend to the present needs of the country. We should continue to act as a nation and our problems may be put aside for awhile. We should have a transition period and we should address our being a sovereign nation at a time when we can already stand independently. You know Mrs. President, one thing that convinced them are the recent events. Many countries are making friends with America while we seem to be positioning ourselves like we no longer like them. We seem to be playing hard to get when we actually need support. These are just being fed to us. They are being phoned in to us and I would like to share them with our audience today.

Thank you very much Mario. That's true. And I'm not saying that this treaty is perfect; *there is no such thing.* And there are many problems intertwined with that. *But when you weigh the advantages over the disadvantages, definitely, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.* That is how it is in this world. *There is no* [Aquino changes thought] like our Constitution, *it's not a perfect Constitution, but certainly it was the best possible at that time. And the fact that our people ratified that Constitution overwhelmingly,* then that is what we should really follow. Just like this treaty, it's true, we hoped for a bigger compensation than was stipulated and more should have been done. But it's good that we have the so-called Program Review Group. *We are the only other country aside from Israel that has this provision in a treaty.* Which is why on the matter of implementing the treaty, every year, there is a committee which will review that, and we will tell the Americans which we think were not complied with, or what we think should be added in the implementation of our treaty.

[Roger Lagasca of Radyo ng Bayan] Mrs. President, in 1985 you signed a document with the other opposition leaders and this was related to opposition to the continued stay of the military bases in the country. What is the difference between you and the other signatories' positions in 1985 with the present?

[Aquino] In 1985, it was too painful for us then that these military bases were being used to strengthen further the dictatorship. Now, it is clear to us that America then needed the military bases, so in exchange for that they were supporting our dictator. When Ninoy was still living, we were in America. He was asking the Americans why they were so different when they talked of democracy in their country, and yet in other countries they seemed to look the other way when the issue was dictatorship or the fight for democracy. During that time, I was just an ordinary citizen and I still did not have...[Aquino changes thought] My responsibility really was primarily to my family and while this is true, I was fighting for the return and the restoration of democracy. I really did not have any kind of power whatsoever. But now I am president of the Philippines and it is my responsibility to see to it that at least I address the concerns of the Philippine people, especially those who are our underprivileged brothers and sisters. What we need now, and many things have happened between 1985 and now 1991, like what Phil said, there was no Mt. Pinatubo eruption then. No Gulf crisis. No earthquake. Anyway, come to think about it now, it seems that the killer earthquake really was not such a difficult thing compared to Mt. Pinatubo. But what I want to tell my countrymen is that if you are a leader it is not possible to nail yourself for something just like this. You can nail yourself down in your love for the country. That does not change. My love for the Philippine nation does not change. If it ever changes, it increases—my love increases. Maybe, when I was just an ordinary citizen I already loved the Philippine nation, but I can not faithfully say at that time that the Philippine nation was my priority over my family. When I was an ordinary citizen, my priority were my children. But now, I can truthfully and wholeheartedly say that my priority now, is the Philippine people because I am now president and all the Filipinos are my children. And during this time I can not tell them: You know all we should do is to be hard. Let us throw these Americans out. Come what may. We should be independent. But I can not say this because like what I said earlier, I have not experienced how to live a poor man's life. The 50 percent of people living below the poverty line, how can I tell them: You have to suffer more because in the future the Filipinos will become stronger. *Because while I agree that suffering does do something and does improve some people, it does not always happen that way. Suffering can even (make or burn) a person.* And going back again to Ninoy; many were imprisoned during the martial law. But we can not say that all those in jail that time progressed or they were not all purified from defeat, because we human beings, we do have our faults and I can not feel that I have been purified by suffering. I have improved. I think I can say that very honestly. But poverty like one of our sayings says, is really a [word indistinct], what is the grass for, when the horse is already dead? So, how would I tell our countrymen, you know in 10 years time, maybe our life here would improve. But what will they feed their children during those 10 years. This is what I am asking the senators: Give me a concrete alternative so that I can say, okay it seems we are (at a disadvantage) in this treaty but tomorrow I will give you jobs. Tomorrow, you will have some source for your need to feed your children, to send your children to school. But the truth is there is none. What could happen is that the 50 percent will have to suffer some more because the rich can by all means continue with their lives. Others are saying that America will not oppose our trade. That is true. Maybe it will not be reduced but maybe it will not be raised. I don't know if America will be that kind. But I think *we have to be realistic enough that we are not the only country in the world exporting these kinds of products. If we had [word indistinct] this product and we were the only country producing this then* I am sure that no matter what we do, we will have a lot of buyers for that product. But we know that we are in competition with our neighboring countries.

My appeal is that during this time, maybe we have to accept this treaty and I think *under the circumstances, this is really the best that this treaty could be arrived at.* Sometimes I pity Secretary Manglapus because of the many criticisms he has been getting. He has been the sole person blamed. I have full confidence in him. He has really studied this very well with the members of the panel what we can obtain for the benefit of the Philippine nation. Because *he surely would have wanted more, I mean, I don't think there is anyone of us here who will not want more at any given time.* The NGO's maybe have helped you but you wished there was more. Our labor sector, although they have jobs, they wish for more salary or want better jobs for their comrades in the trade union. But I think we have to accept that in this world and God even told us that *we will not be getting everything that we want in this world but we are just preparing ourselves for the next... [changes thought] but it does not mean either* that we will always be suffering. Maybe we Filipinos must unite and no matter what we receive as compensation and from the treaty as a whole, we should do everything we can so that we can get the best benefit out of that which will redound to the benefits of our people.

[Lagasca] Mrs. President, we want to know something. If ever, Mr. Joson, in your belief—our workers, can we stand on our own without the military bases?

[Joson] One consideration we should think about is nothing [words indistinct] that we are talking about compensation. I remember that the workers, if Mrs. President remembers, were asking for wage increase in 1989 and we were asking for some 35 Philippine pesos. But as it was explained that this should not be given out of the economic profit, we agreed on the nonwage benefits. When I heard that the cash component of the agreement was important, I thought for us the strong consideration would be the nonwage components. The impact on the employment, for example, Roger, this is important for us because not only those displaced by the U.S. bases will be affected. What I know is that we have industries like the textile industries. Here, there are many organized sectors which we should take care of and other industries which will be affected by the time there is no longer an agreement. And Mrs. President, when you said Americans are kind in that they would not cut our trade access, that was nice and easy. But if we reject the bases treaty, their feelings would change because we are threatening...

[Aquino, interrupting] I don't really believe it but some are saying this. I even read something which said that this may not be cut. That could be true. Maybe they will not cut it but maybe they will because, as I was saying, if we Filipinos have products which we alone are making... [changes thought] like the garments, there is great competition in this. I really want the garment industry because it is so labor-intensive and we would be able to respond to the needs of so many of our brothers. What I want is for this to even increase—this garment quota. The truth is that when Ambassador Platt was still here, he told me that he thinks this will be increased. He even told me that he was prepared to promise this to the senators and I told him that was good. When the new ambassador, Ambassador Wisner, arrived, I asked him if that was still true—if he can still tell our senators that the garments quota will increase. He said, yes, he was ready to tell the same to our senators.

[Lagasca] Mrs. President, there is something we want clarified here before the nation that the comparison of 825 versus 900 is unbelievable. *I understand the 825 total package of benefits must be compared with 900 million instead of 203.* [no currency specified] Which one is right?

[Aquino] The first one is that which we have talked about concerning the hard and soft. The hard was related to the bases and the soft to the additional benefits. Of the 203, 100 is the so-called FMF [Foreign Military Fund] or that which can buy military equipment and hardware from the United States. Then, 300 million dollars is for the military and educational training program for the AFP [Armed Forces of the PHilippines]. Then the 100, we have 150 from the excess defense articles but this is not included in the 203. [sentence as heard] This is for the military again. This is what I want to tell our countrymen, like our Air Force, I think almost 70 percent of their requirements are attended to by the U.S. Government and so, Secretary De Villa asked me: How would the AFP be if we cannot give them the needed aircraft and naval vessels they need and other vehicles like jeeps, trucks, and bulldozers. We know that after the Gulf war there were many excess defense articles. So, I said that we can choose from their used military hardware. But what we need to explain is like the Buy-Philippines Program. Not just the American military, these have to be bought also in America. [sentence as heard] Now, this was agreed upon in the Manglapus-Schultz Agreement that they will buy here, not only the things needed by the Americans situated in the Philippines but also in other military camps throughout the world especially those in the Pacific Command. They should buy here. An amendment was made on this because, in America, they also want to protect their own interests. But because of the Manglapus-Shultz Agreement, they are buying $200 million worth. Now, we are only crediting the $100 million because our capital was only $100.

[words indistinct] soft compensation, the new trade accessibility, what we are thinking of is what is there to add. We think that what is already there, we should not include in the new treaty. We should give credit to the things we can add.

Now, we know that we need large amounts of funds to rehabilitate Central Luzon because of Mount Pinatubo. And again, what is needed is not only to seek help from America but also from other countries which can suitably help us. I have mentioned this to the Japanese Government—that we really need help in the rehabilitation. Now, we all know that of two friends, these friends—like you and I, Roger, I don't know how many friends you have, but maybe you would say that I have more friends than you. I have more connections than you do. This is the same with our friendship with America. They can call on others whom they can ask to help the Philippines, like in our problem when our debt negotiators are facing a negotiation, we need to call up our friends in America or in Japan or Europe to help us with the talks and give us debt relief or new loans with which to buy back our debts. If we are alone, it will be difficult. Like here, we have friends, if Ernie has NGO's who make something like hollow blocks or baskets and you need to market this, we have to call for help from the businessmen in Manila or wherever to help these NGO's. If the labor sector wants to get more jobs for their members, they too will call on their friends and tell them of the labor force which needs help. I think this is how things run. We need to have somebody to call on. It is difficult to be alone when our countrymen come and say they need help, especially those in Zambales, Pampanga, and Tarlac where, those affected there need bridges, schools, and other things. I cannot forget our brothers in the Visayas and Mindanao because they also continue to need our help. Our needs increase. My appeal to the senators is not to aggravate our problems and, I think, this will only last for 10 years and *during that time, let us all join hands to really make the Philippines a stronger nation, so that we will not have to be too dependent.* I am praying and hoping that these natural disasters stop. I think we have had enough of them.

[Garilao] Mrs. President, this is a follow up on Mario's question. We have 10 years and, after 10 years, what plans are in place so that we are less dependent militarily on the United States and have greater access to other economic forces. The thing is that maybe after 10 years we could be back in the same boat as we are now, wherein our equipment is all from the United States and where we get preferential economic treatment from the United States and, therefore, are not really competitive in the environment. It may be an unfair question to you, because it is 10 years from now...

[Aquino, interrupting] Not only that, our presidential hopefuls may say: Shut up; you will no longer be president in 1992. [laughter] However, Ernie, if these coup attempts had not occurred, many investors would have come here. There were many already prepared to come here but they changed their minds and went to Thailand. But it was not that bad then because after that we were able to recover and 1988 proved to be a very good year and 1989 was also a good year, except that in December 1989 camé another coup attempt which was very serious. This was especially so in Makati where, for one week, the people there could not move. So, those who stayed behind were those who already had their businesses here and could not just pack up and leave. So, we really suffered. In 1990, the earthquake; in 1991, the Gulf war; and then this Mount Pinatubo. Had not all these things happened, we would have progressed. We saw that the Filipinos themselves and the foreigners who have investments here were expanding. And this military need, maybe that would be dependent, Ernie, on our neighbors and also on the rest of the world because, as the saying goes, when a superpower sneezes we here are the ones to catch pneumonia. It seems so unfair but I think that is the very real thing that is happening. Maybe what we can do here is to strengthen our friendship, firstly with our ASEAN partners and then with the others. I am hoping for that all over the world, I can see that they do not want to spend so much for the same purposes, not only here but we know that in the Soviet Union they saw that the people suffered if the greater part of their budget was spent for defense purposes. Maybe it is better for us to strengthen our friendships because we cannot say that we should increase our defense budget because we know that our countrymen need more schools, hospitals, and roads. So, that is what I am expecting us to do because I will not be the president for the next 10 years. So, what is needed is that all our countrymen, whoever the next administration will be and regardless of whether or not we voted for that president, give him all of our support because it is so difficult to be president of a nation. But if the people help that president, the burden will be lightened a bit. But that is in us Filipinos. We have nothing of which to be ashamed. In fact, what we did here at EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue], many have now done what we did. We saw in Moscow the same people's power. *But beyond that, is the fact that we have been able to maintain and to preserve that democracy.* So, this is what we can be proud of. Now, if we need the help of others, let us not say that detracts from our sovereignty because even the big countries like Japan allow the American bases to stay and they even pay them. Spain too, and South Korea, and we know that Singapore now has an agreement. Secretary Manglapus told me that Malaysia may also have an agreement. So, we are not the only country who is allowing the Americans to stay in our military bases. *So, I do not think it diminishes our sovereignty.*

[Batacan] Another comment on Russia. There are different opinions on the effect of the Russian experience, which was copied from our people's power, on the possible agreement on the U.S. bases treaty of friendship, cooperation, and security. What do you think is the immediate effect on our negotiations with America?

[Aquino] I think all of us were shocked. The cold war is over and President Gorbachev had even gone to the G-7 meeting. We all thought a change of system in the Soviet Union was imminent and that they also wanted to adopt a market economy similar to other countries. So, that is what we thought, that it was impossible for this thing to suddenly occur. Thank goodness, through people's power, peace and order were brought back in the Soviet Union. But maybe this is also a reminder to us that we should not relax or think that we can deal with everything. Like what happened in the Gulf crisis. We had so many overseas workers and we were not capable of bringing them all home. We sought help. The IOM [expansion unknown] helped us and other countries like New Zealand, Japan, and others helped us to bring our workers home. But the truth was the great bulk remained there and we had the assurance of the governments abroad that they would take care of them. But that was what we saw again. America also needed the help of others. Bangladesh helped. Egypt helped. Other people helped. They could not handle everything. So, this is what I want to tell our countrymen. Our sovereignty which all of us naturally wants because it is of course part of our Constitution—national sovereignty and territorial intengrity—but as I said, if other countries are agreeable and they do not think that it diminishes their sovereignty, maybe we too can think that we are a family of nations that we cannot detract from ourselves. No country is able to separate itself, especially us because we have so many problems at this time. Maybe we will not lose anything if we continue our friendships not only with America but also with other countries. We will have more friends and our situation will improve. Our trade will increase and our investments will also rise. Like our overseas workers, if we know the governments where they are working, at least we are certain that they will be taken cared of.

[Batacan] Mrs. President, many were asking why in the treaty the foreign debt buy-back scheme was not included. What explanation can we give to the people?

[Aquino] You know, this thing on the foreign debt, we are not only indebted to the U.S. We also owe Japan, Germany, and many other countries. Well, many of the Constitutions in other countries ban participation by the foreign military bases, like Japan, which is against their Constitution. Like the MAI-PAP [Multi-Aid Initiative-Philippine Assistance Program], which was not part of the treaty because, *as I said, there are countries whose Constitutions do not allow them to participate in military exercises outside their own countries. So, I think that would be the major response, Roger, but it does not mean that we cannot also work on this apart from the bases treaty but again,* if you annoy your friend [laughs] you might not get good treatment. I think it is human nature that if you want good treatment, you should give better treatment. But at any rate, I've already instructed Secretary Estanislao and Governor Cuisia, *they are in Washington now, to talk to our creditors there to help us on this thing.*

[Batacan] Thank you, Mrs. President.

[Joson] Mrs. President, I want to ask you, if the Senate does not ratify this treaty or agreement, what are the options available to the Philippine people? For example, is there a need for renegotiation? Is there a need for a referendum? What is the best thing to do?

[Aquino] The referendum, according to our Constitution, will only come into it after a treaty has been ratified and only if Congress so desires. And what is needed, *and in fact even before the senate votes on this treaty,* I already told Secretary Manglapus to prepare our committee which would be working with the American committee regarding the orderly withdrawal of the bases, because their is a possibility that this will be rejected by the senators, so we have to prepare for this. And on what can happen further, I have called on the senators to present other alternatives to our people because this is in their power. But we have to be prepared that, if the Senate really rejects this, there should be an orderly withdrawal. And even with regard to Clark, even if we have an agreement with regard to Subic, we have to talk about how the Americans would leave Clark.

[Lagasca] Another question which came to us Mrs. President is this: Do our military authorities know what is inside all the American installations here in the Philippines? Because if you remember so many months back before Mount Pinatubo erupted, there were widespread rumors that there were missiles inside the bases and even at Subic Bay. It is alleged that they should not keep any secret from us in regard to what is inside their installations.

[Aquino] That is clear. There is a treaty [word indistinct]. The Philippine Government's approval is needed with regard to nonconventional or nuclear weapons. It is necessary to seek an agreement from the Philippine Government. I am thankful to all of you and I hope we have clarified things to our people. I hope our senators will consult their constituents and listen to the various sectors so that they will know their opinions and what our countrymen want in relation to this treaty of friendship, cooperation and security. Many thanks and good evening my beloved countrymen.

Signing Scheduled for 27 Aug

HK2608085091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Combined reports by reporters Vic Sinchongco of DZRH Unit No. 6 and Rey Arquiza of DZRH Unit No. 21]

[Excerpts] The proposed treaty between the Philippines and the United States which will give a 10-year extension to the U.S. bases in the Philippines is scheduled to be signed tomorrow.

In a statement, the president said that the signing of the treaty which was earlier scheduled for today, Monday, will take place signing in a ceremony which will be held here at Hero's Hall of Malacanang.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, according to the report, will sign in behalf of the Philippines, while the new U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Frank Wisner will sign in behalf of the United States. Malacanang spent the entire day reviewing the letter of U.S. President George Bush, which is part of the treaty to be signed.

The letter underscores the commitment of Washington to grant economic and military assistance under the treaty. The president once again expressed hope that the Senate will ratify the proposed treaty. Most of the members of the upper house have already declared their strong opposition to the agreement. [passage omitted]

After the signing of the U.S. bases agreement, it will be submitted to the Senate for ratification. But according to the senators, especially Senator Aquilino Pimentel, it will be returned to Malacanang without any action from the Senate, the moment it is submitted. This means, according to Pimentel, the Senate is rejecting the agreement on the U.S. bases. Meanwhile, all kinds of pressure is being exerted to convince the majority members of the Senate to ratify the said agreement on the U.S. bases.

Aquino on Gorbachev Communist Party Resignation

HK2608092691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 26 Aug 91

[By Dick Sinchongco, DZRH Unit 6 in Malacanang]

[Text] President Cory Aquino stressed that the resignation of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as the chairman of the Communist Party will pave the way for faster reforms in the Soviet Union. The president hailed Gorbachev for his move which is said to put an end to the reign of the communists in the Soviet Union. The president also said those who desire for the continuation of communist insurgency in the Philippines have been left behind. According to the president, how can those wishing for a communist system press for such a system, when people worldwide are resisting this, especially the Russians who have been under the communist system the longest. Gorbachev's resignation from the communist party has shattered the over 70 years rule of the party in their country. Gorbachev resigned from the chairmanship after the Soviet people foiled the overthrow of the Soviet leader by his comrades in the party, and the continued spread of anticommunist sentiment in that country.

Senior Envoy Assigned to Embassy in Moscow

HK2608110791 Quezon City MALAYA in English 24 Aug 91 pp 1, 6

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs assigned yesterday Jose A. Zaide Jr as minister and charged d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Moscow.

The decision to send Zaide, who is currently minister and consul general of the Philippine Embassy in Brussels, came after the department was caught flatfooted by the failed coup mounted by communist hardliners against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last Monday.

The embassy is being run by only a junior official, Vice Consul Ernesto Diano.

Ambassador Juan V. Saez left Moscow late June to become consul general in Houston, Texas. His No. 2 man, Minister-Counsellor Wenceslao Quirolgico was transferred to Kuwait also in June after repeated incidents of drunken driving in Moscow.

Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus was not aware that Saez was no longer in Moscow. He told Malacanang reporters last Tuesday that Saez was still there.

Foreign Undersecretary Tomas Padilla said Zaide's Moscow assignment is "temporary" while President Aquino is shopping around for an ambassador to Moscow, Padilla said.

Being considered for the Moscow post are retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Rodolfo Biazon and Ambassador Nicasio Valderrama who is now in Pakistan.

Zaide was previously assigned to India and Germany.

Zaide, a graduate of Ateneo de Manila, is the son of veteran Filipino journalist and diplomat Jose Zaide Sr and nephew of historian Gregorio Zaide.

Ministry Separates Political, Criminal Prisoners

HK2608123291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Aug 91 pp 1, 6

[By Desiree Carlos and Ellen Cruz]

[Text] The Department of Justice yesterday separated political prisoners from common criminals detained at the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa.

The segregation of the 22 political prisoners was made on recommendation of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights [PCHR] which said the crimes of these prisoners were politically or ideologically motivated, Acting Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III said yesterday. The 22 were transferred to building No. 11 inside the maximum security compound.

The PCHR recommendation was also prompted by an urgent request from relatives of the political prisoners who said the prisoners are being forced by hardened criminals to have tattoos marked on their bodies or join prison gangs.

The political prisoners are suspected members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, the sparrow units, and the Moro National Liberation Front.

The political prisoners were convicted for crimes ranging from illegal possession of firearms to murder.

The 22 political prisoners are: Abraham Acido, Romeo Trinidad, Benito Galanote, William Lumabao, Ireneo Agustines, Expedito Edbalin, Dionisio Cuenco, Abraham Sibog, Roger Padernal, Franklin Brecio, Charlito Manzano, Teodulo Cabizares, Fredie Agsaoa, Noli Navarro, Mario Pinas, William Esquivel, Gallen Tundag, Ramon Nuguera, Teddy Masarate, Edmundo Lisay, Bernabe Nantes, and Joseph Pena.

Meanwhile, the Task Force Detainees [TFDP] of the Philippines accused President Aquino of lying when she said recently there are no more political prisoners in the country.

TFDP said contrary to Mrs Aquino's announcement, there are 720 political prisoners throughout the country, 128 of whom are languishing in various camps and detention centers in Metro Manila.

Raymond Oliveros, research and documentation officer of TFDP-NCR [National Capital Region], also noted Bello's announcement. The TFDP said most of the political detainees "are those who fought against the oppressive rule of the past Marcos regime but continued their struggle after realizing that the present government has not effected essential changes in the lives of Filipino people."

Most of these detainees have been accused of being communists, the same charge hurled by the Marcos regime against the late Sen Benigno Aquino who spent seven years in incarceration, TFDP said.

The church-backed human rights group added some of the detainees have been slapped with criminal charges so they can be held in detention for a long period of time.

The group added this act is the reason why government statistics on political prisoners differ with TFDP figures which were based on arrests and detentions made on the basis of acts that are politically motivated.

TFDP also said political detainees will continue to exist as long as the people's demands for job and justice, food and freedom, is not met by the government.

Thailand

Leaders React to Developments in Soviet Union

Anan, Asa Send Messages

BK2408045491 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun sent a message to President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday expressing a sense of relief over the [word indistinct] coup attempt in the Soviet Union and said the outcome represents a victory for the Soviet people and for the cause of world peace and stability.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, in a message to his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, congratulated the Soviet people for the return of normalcy in the country and expressed his hope that the positive course taken by President Gorbachev and himself would continue uninterrupted. Mr. Asa added that the friendly relations between Thailand and the Soviet Union will be further strengthened.

In a separate message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Mr. Asa said he admired the Russian leader's courageous stand during the crisis. Mr. Asa described the final of the three-day coup in the Soviet Union as satisfactory since there was no bloodshed and added that from now a Western aid should resume its support of Soviet reform efforts. [sentence as heard]

Foreign Affairs Official on Situation

BK2608015791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] The volatile situation in the Soviet Union will have far-reaching implications for the world order where Soviet-US relations play a pivotal role, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Witthaya Wetchachiwa said yesterday.

Asked to comment on the changes in the Soviet Union, Mr Witthaya said Thailand will need more time to fully assesss and analyse the trend, the job entrusted to a special Foreign Ministry task force which was set up since the abortive coup last week.

"This issue is too big for us to comment on right now. But the world is what it is today because of the Soviet-US detente," he said.

The emphasis for the Thais would be on whether the Cold War would reemerge, and if so to what extent it would be.

"The world is in its present state because Gorbachev befriended the US and the US-Soviet relations hold the key, not the Soviet-Thai, or even Cambodian relations," he said.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin qualified the imminent death of the Soviet Communist Party as "internal affairs."

To the question whether Thailand would consider recognition of the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the minister said Thailand will have to take time weighing the pros and cons of the decision.

However, Thailand still values the close and friendly relations with China, the world's last bastion of Communism.

"It's in the Thai interests to maintain and enhance the good cooperative ties with China. Our relationship with China has nothing to do with ideology," said Mr Asa.

New Soviet Ambassador on Relations

BK2608015591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Aug p A2

[Text] The radical changes taking place in the Soviet Union will have no immediate effect on Thai-Soviet relations, the new Soviet ambassador to Thailand Oleg Bostorin said yesterday.

Speaking on The Nation's Newstalk programme, Bostorin said he expected a more "active" relationship between the two countries in the future.

"I don't think there will be an immediate change in our policy towards Thailand, but of course the changes taking place in Moscow will have some influence in the long future," he said.

The ambassador arrived in Thailand on Aug 3 and was scheduled to present his credentials to his Majesty the King on Aug 21. But the coup in Moscow on Aug 19 suddenly made Bostorin an "illegitimate" ambassador as he had been appointed by the then-toppled Gorbachev.

But with the coup's failure and Gorbachev's retaking of the reins of power, Bostorin automatically retained his position.

Asked what form of political structure he expected to evolve in the Soviet Union in the future, the envoy said he expected his country to become a sort of loose federation.

"I think it would be very like the American system but with less power consolidation than what the American central government now has. The republics would be given more power, but Moscow will still retain some power and still play an important role," he said.

A citizen of the Russian Republic by birth, Oleg added that the announcement of power-sharing by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin did not mean a big change in the political structure of the Soviet Union.

"I don't think that announcement means a change in the Soviet political structure, but there would have to be an amendment in our constitution to enable the president of the Russian Republic to replace the President of the Soviet Union instead of the Soviet Vice President," he said.

Asked to comment on the news of the dissolution of the Soviet Communist Party and the resignation of Gorbachev as the Party's general secretary, Oleg said that although communism has failed in its aims it would continue as an ideological influence in the Soviet Union.

"I think the future of our country is brighter than before because there will be no more sabotage of the perestroyka policy, which contains a lot of socialist ideas. Now the speed will be faster," he said.

Asked about trade relations between the two nations, the ambassador-designate said he expected trade to be more active due to the need for economic restructuring in the Soviet Union. But he added that Thailand would probably have to contact the various republics more directly from now on.

"I also expected the nature of trade to change. Before the Soviet Uniuon mostly imported raw materials from Thailand. But now I think we will import more merchandise," he said.

Foreign Minister Meets New Envoy

BK2308145591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] The Soviet ambassador designate, Oleg Bostorin, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The new Soviet ambassador to Thailand presented to the foreign minister his credentials which are to be forwarded to his majesty the king.

Ambassador Oleg Bostorin already called on the foreign minister once to present the letter of credentials, but it was during the coup in the Soviet Union and his credentials therefore did not get official recognition.

Reporting to newsmen on the meeting, Foreign Minister Asa said that the meeting today reflected Thailand's sincerity toward the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Oleg Bostorin, meanwhile, gave an assurance that relations between Thailand and the Soviet Union will always remain close no matter what may happen. The ambassador looked forward to the forthcoming meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia in Phatthaya as a step forward in the settlement. The Soviet Union is sending Igor Rogachev, its foreign minister [title as heard], to the meeting as an observer since the Soviet Union is a member of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Igor Rogachev will arrive on 28 August.

Foreign Minister Asa also told newsmen about the neutral stand taken by Thailand on the SNC meeting, saying that the meeting will tackle all unresolved problems among the Cambodian factions, especially on the cease-fire problem.

Prime Minister Attends Debate on Constitution

BK2608073791 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] started deliberations the draft constitution after its first reading at the parliament this morning. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun told the press that he attended the first day's session as a representative of the government to listen to the meeting, but will not take part in the debate.

The prime minister reconfirmed that the general elections will certainly be held—probably early next year. However, he said that he cannot not give a specific date for the elections. It all depends on how long the consideration of various readings of the draft constitution takes. If it takes more than two months, then it will be possible to hold the general elections in January or February next year. If it takes more than two months, the general elections will then be held in February or March.

Although the specific date and time cannot yet be fixed, he reconfirmed that there will certainly be general elections.

Moreover, the prime minister said the Interior Ministry has already made preparations for the general elections. The drafting of laws governing the elections and political parties will be made later. A total budget of almost 300 million baht has been set aside for use in the general elections, he concluded.

NPKC Chairman Softens Stand on Constitution

BK2408095391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Aug 91 pp 1,3

[Text] Supreme Commander and National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong appears to have softened his stand on the new constitution draft, saying it cannot be drawn up to please everyone and appropriate changes should be left to the National Legislative Assembly.

Gen Sunthon was asked about a briefing he and other NPKC leaders received on Thursday from Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, who chairs the drafting committee.

Gen Sunthon said before the briefing that he disagreed with several clauses in the draft and suggested it be withdrawn from the assembly and be reviewed by the drafting committee.

But he told reporters yesterday that the NPKC leadership, following the briefing, is satisfied with the draft.

"The draft cannot be drawn up to please everybody. We have to choose a middle path which is more suitable to Thai society," Gen Sunthon said.

Asked whether he still wants the powers of the constitutional committee reduced, Gen Sunthon said this should be left for assembly members to consider next week.

He said a 35-man committee will be appointed by the NLA to scrutinise the draft after the document passes its first reading.

The NPKC is satisfied "to a certain level" with the proposed power of the constitutional committee but he could not say whether or not the NLA would share this view or debate some changes.

National Legislative Assembly president Ukrit Mongkonnawin said it is too late to withdraw the draft constitution for review because it has been submitted to the NLA and is already schedule for debate on Monday.

Gen Sunthon said on Thursday the majority of people have criticised the charter as being undemocratic this could be a reason for its reconsideration.

Dr Ukrit responded by saying things now have to proceed according to NLA procedure and there has been no notification to him from anyone to withdraw the draft.

"I don't think there will be any problems. Anyone can say that the charter is not democratic. But the assembly has to consider this," Dr Ukrit said.

If the draft passes its first reading then a special committee will be appointed to scrutinise it and all NLA members can introduce changes at that stage.

Both the special panel and all NLA members will have to listen to the voice of the people if they want a charter that is "really democratic," Dr Ukrit said.

NLA vice president Bunchana Atthakon also said any changes will have to be made at the scrutiny stage, adding that the two major controversial provisions of the constitution seem to be the Constitution Committee and the ombudsman, both of which are aimed at preventing corruption and abuse of power.

Asked whether or not he thinks the nine-member Constitution Committee will have too much power, since it will be responsible for selecting senators, overseeing the election and investigating MPs [members of parliament] and senators for graft or vote-buying, Mr Bunchana said the good point about it is to prevent corruption.

Any undesirable details can be changed during the second reading.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, the chief figure in the drafting process, insists reporters misunderstood Gen Sunthon's comment on Thursday.

Mr. Michai argues that the Constitution Committee is not powerful as the final say rests with the Constitutional Tribunal.

The committee will have the power only to investigate and make recommendations while the second body will make the decisions and has the final say on the guilt or innocence of alleged offenders.

"It's a misunderstanding to say the Constitution Committee is too powerful. You have to read the charter in detail. Don't look at it with suspicion," Michai said.

NPKC secretary-general and Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said the NPKC will not interfere in the appointment of an assembly committee to scrutinise the draft.

The view was echoed by Mr Michai, who agreed it is up to the assembly to appoint the committee, adding if the NLA recruits outsiders they have to be authoritative people but many of these can be found among the assembly's members.

Gen Itsaraphong dismissed as untrue news reports that the military council would appoint members of the committee.

"The NPKC is in the executive not legislative field," he said, adding that the council's main task is to assist and give opinions to the Government.

Party Attacks Draft Constitution Proposal

BK2608014391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Aug 91 p A2

[Text] The Prachakon Thai Party has joined the attack on a proposal in the draft constitution to set up a committee with wide- ranging power from nominating senators to ruling on charges related to elections.

Yenchit Raphipat na Ayutthaya, a deputy party leader, said over the weekend that the proposed Constitution Committee would enjoy excessive power. She pointed out its power to investigate whether MPs employed illegal tactics to win a place in the House of Representatives.

Yenchit, a former Bangkok MP, said such power should rest with the court of law only.

She said the committee's members, who would be appointed, should not be given more power than MPs who are elected.

"In a parliamentary system, no one should have more power than MPs or it would violate the principles of democracy," Yenchit said.

The constitution-drafting committee headed by deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan has proposed that the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), the care taking Cabinet, the Judicial Commission and the National Assembly each appoint two members to the committee.

The eight members would then vote among themselves to appoint an outsider who would be the committee's chairman.

Academics and politicians have in recent weeks criticized the proposal. They charged that it was designed to retain the NPKC's power after the promised election.

They said the military junta was trying to transform its power to the proposed powerful constitution committee and subsequently to the Senate which under the draft constitution would have a considerably enhanced role in the Parliament.

The critics said the proposed committee would have at lest four pro-military members from the NPKC and the military-dominated interim legislative body. Most of the over 1,000 people to be nominated by the committee to the Senate would be military affiliated, they said.

Under the draft constitution, the Senate nominees would vote among themselves for 270 seats in the Senate.

Even NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong surprisingly came out last week to attack the proposed committee for being given too much power.

Yenchit said her party also did not agree with the draft charter's proposed requirement that one third of both Houses seats or 420 be needed to amend the new Constitution.

She said this requirement would make it impossible for the elected members of lower house to amend the charter, unless they had overwhelming support from the Senate.

The party deputy leader also attacked what she described as loopholes in the draft charter. She said the charter allows for non-elected people to become members of the Cabinet while demanding that at least two thirds of the Cabinet members be MPs.

Critics have voiced concerns that some military leaders would try to capture key Cabinet portfolios either directly or through the pro-military Samakkhitham Party.

"Was this constitution drafted for democracy or for someone?" Yenchit asked.

Despite its strong objection to many points in the new draft constitution, Prachakon Thai Party was prepared for the next election, she said.

Vietnam

Hanoi Reports Gorbachev Resignation From CPSU

BK2508120191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] In his statement broadcast over Soviet TV Saturday [24 Aug], Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev decided to resign from the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee. Mr. Gorbachev criticized the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the party Central Committee for not opposing the coup attempt. He said several members of the party leadership and the party's mass media openly supported the coup leader. In such conditions, Mr. Gorbachev said, the party Central Committee should dissolve itself and the fate of communist parties of other republics and local party committees will be decided by themselves.

Meanwhile, Russian President Yeltsin signed a decree saying that all dossiers and archives of the Institute of Theory and Socialist History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, and other dossiers and archives of the Moscow and Leningrad party committees, must be handed over to the Russian offices for management.

The same day, President Gorbachev signed a decree on the Soviet cabinet, and he will let the Supreme Soviet of the USSR consider the draft [word indistinct] of the Cabinet, after recent developments in the country. He also decided to set up a temporary committee, headed by Russian Chairman of Council of Ministers Silayev, to handle the national economy. Mr. Gorbachev issued two decrees on handing over the access of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to Soviet People's Deputies: later on, [words indistinct] of the ownership and social organization, stop activities of political parties and movements in the Armed Forces and state offices.

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

BK2308153091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] On the morning of 22 August, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam received the Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam at the request of the ambassador.

At the meeting, the Soviet ambassador conveyed to the Vietnamese leadership a verbal note of the Soviet leadership on the present situation in the Soviet Union as well as measures to overcome difficulties, and the hope to maintain and develop cooperative relations with Vietnam as well as with other countries.

Comrade Nguyen Van Cam said: The Vietnamese people hope that the Soviet people will promptly surmount difficulties and ordeals, and stabilize the political and socioeconomic situation for continued development.

He reiterated the Vietnamese party, Government, and people's desire to continually consolidate and develop the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet party, state, and people.

Hanoi 'Courtship' of ASEAN Heats Up

BK2508031591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0236 GMT 25 Aug 91

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 25 (AFP)—Vietnam has stepped up its courtship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), portraying itself as an ideal economic partner for its fast-growing neighbors.

With a peace settlement in Cambodia on the horizon, several ASEAN countries appear interested in a closer relationship with Indochina, judging by participation at an economic forum here last week.

But even the most ardent are treading cautiously, waiting to see if Vietnam's economic reforms will be far-reaching enough to make it compatible with the free-wheeling ASEAN economies, analysts said.

"The ASEAN countries are taking a pragmatic approach" to closer ties with Vietnam, a South Asian diplomat said. "You can't integrate if your systems don't mesh."

Since it began liberalizing its economy in 1987, Vietnam has made no secret of its desire to join ASEAN, which was formed two decades earlier largely as a bulwark against the spread of communism in Asia.

"ASEAN can become the bridge between Vietnam and the world," Vietnamese State Pricing Committee Chairman Phan Van Tiem told the forum, which brought together Vietnamese economic planners and ASEAN policymakers and experts.

"The views of Vietnam are very close to those of regional countries on regional issues. It is time to institutionalize and insert into joint agreements our common aspirations and wills," added Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan.

The five-day symposium on "Vietnam's New Course and ASEAN Experiences," which ended Saturday, was sponsored by the Vietnamese Government and a private Singapore think-tank, the Information Resources Institute.

A second seminar on political and economic cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN was due to open here Monday, this time cosponsored by a German institute.

A Western diplomat here suggested that Hanoi was pursuing ties with ASEAN to pressure Washington to lift the 16-year-old trade embargo that has fettered Vietnam's economy.

"It could build commercial pressure," the diplomat said. "American businessmen don't want to get left behind."

The South Asian diplomat saw Hanoi's overtures to ASEAN in more straightforward terms: "Vietnam badly needs foreign investment—anywhere it can get it."

ASEAN countries invested a total of 75 million dollars in Vietnam between 1987 and 1990, according to official figures. Fully half the total was invested in 1990 alone.

Thai firms led the way, investing 36.8 million dollars in 18 projects by the end of 1990.

Singapore was next (17.7 million dollars), followed by Indonesia (13.8 million), the Philippines (6.9 million) and Malaysia (450,000). Brunei had invested nothing.

In terms of official policy, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur seem to be the most receptive among ASEAN capitals to the idea of integrating Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia into the ASEAN framework, once the Cambodian conflict ends.

"Now that Cambodia can hopefully be resolved, we will go back to our original blueprint: Southeast Asia must become one, not a region of two polarized mini-blocs," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW last month. "ASEAN must adjust to the changing surroundings," said Alatas, whose president, Suharto, visited Vietnam in November 1990.

Both Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim visited Hanoi this month, the latter to address the symposium.

"In today's world of interdependence ...the path of isolationism is no longer viable," Anwar told the symposium, urging Vietnam to open the door to development opportunities.

He suggested that Vietnam could attract more ASEAN investors by bringing local economic regulations more in line with those of Vietnam's free-market neighbors.

"In the Malaysian experience, developmental growth would have been hampered if the government had not laid down proper and definitive ground rules to facilitate external and internal capital movements," he said.

"Every investor, whether foreign or domestic, needs to know exactly what the ground rules are."

Philippine House of Representatives Speaker Ramon Mitra was among the participants at last week's symposium. This week's forum was to be attended by representatives of all six ASEAN states, generally either officials or experts with close governmental ties.

A peace settlement in Cambodia would remove the most prominent political barrier to closer ASEAN-Indochina ties. But the South Asian diplomat said Vietnam's noncommunist neighbors remained cautious.

"ASEAN is waiting to see the results of Vietnam's economic reforms," he said. "Are these just short-term changes to improve conditions or is Vietnam moving toward a long-term structure that would allow it to integrate in ASEAN?"

Vietnam decided in 1986 to move toward a market-based economy. Hanoi introduced a relatively liberal investment law in 1987, and is considering enshrining certain economic rights in the constitution.

At the same time, however, the 7th communist party congress in June reaffirmed the party's guiding role in the economy, and said socialism remained Vietnam's ultimate goal.

Atsada Chainam, Thailand's ambassador to New Zealand, articulated in a paper submitted to the symposium the lingering suspicion toward Vietnam harbored by many influential figures in ASEAN.

"The Indochinese desire to cooperate closely with ASEAN came about because of unfavorable global changes against international communism which finally affected Indochina by the gradual halt of economic and military aid ... by the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries," Atsada said.

"Their changes, some will argue, are not therefore structural but tactical—meaning they may revert to the old system anytime."

The South Asian diplomat remarked that if Vietnam is ultimately integrated into ASEAN, it would be along with the other Indochinese countries.

"That won't be tomorrow," the South Asian diplomat said. "Even once peace comes to Cambodia, the economy there would have to be restructured. That could take years."

NHAN DAN Welcomes SNC Meeting in Bangkok

BK2408061791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Article in NHAN DAN: "The Cambodians Are Solving Their Problem by Themselves"; date not given]

[Text] Public opinion in the region as well as in the world is rejoicing at and welcoming the results obtained in recent talks among Cambodian parties, especially the informal meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia held in Beijing in last July. The Political Bureau of the KPRP [Khmer People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee has highly valued these results, regarding them as a big success of historic significance.

The news media in many countries maintain that the Cambodians are solving their problem by themselves, that the door of peace has opened in Cambodia, and that Cambodian peace has seen its dawn.

Over the past 10 years, the Cambodian problem has become an important international event. Inside Cambodia, there used to be an armed conflict between various Khmer factions. The conflict, at times, flared up fiercely. Outside Cambodia, there were diplomatic maneuvers and talks held to search for an equitable political solution to Cambodia. Since 1987, there have been many talks held between the Cambodian parties concerned in various places—from Jakarta and Paris to Tokyo, Phatthaya, and Beijing—drawing many regional countries, big powers, and international organizations.

So far, many important agreements have been reached by the Cambodian parties concerned. For example, first, they have set up the SNC, the highest organ of power that represents Cambodian sovereignty, and is composed of

12 members—six on each side—with Prince Sihanouk as its chairman. The SNC will officially meet sometime toward the end of this month in Bangkok and will open an office in Phonom Penh by the end of this year. Second, they have agreed to a total and permanent cease-fire, and pledged not to accept further foreign military aid, effective 24 June 1991.

The newly attained progress has created an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust among the Cambodian parties concerned and has served as a basis for ensuing talks. This proves that the Cambodians are rising to decide the international affairs of their countries. The two key aspects—internal and international—of the Cambodian problem are being resolved simultaneously. The complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia in September 1989 has vigorously spurred the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

There is now the increasingly apparent fact that the internal affairs of Cambodia must and can only be solved by the Cambodians themselves. All attempts by the opposition Khmer factions to reverse or substantially change the status-quo by military means have proved to be unpractical. The State of Cambodia continues to stand firm on its own feet as an increasingly steadfast entity. Its international prestige is growing constantly.

Responding to the aspirations of a broad section of the Cambodian people and the world people, the State of Cambodia has implemented many reform and open-door policies. Not only has it persisted in promoting peace talks, but it has also constantly advanced many initiatives aimed at achieving a breakthrough and pressing for a peace talks. This situation, together with vigorous developments in various areas in the world, has led to a new conception in many countries over the Cambodian problem:

In July 1990, the United States declared a change in its policy aimed at leaving the Cambodian UN seat vacant pending the founding of the SNC, beginning to hold talks with Vietnam, and establishing contact with Phnom Penh. The Sino-Vietnamese relations have shown new improvements, thus having a positive impact on the settlement of the Cambodian problem. From a statement by Chinese leaders about a thaw in the Sino-Vietnamese relations to China's holding an informal SNC meeting in Beijing followed by a visit to China by Chairman Hun Sen, one can see developments of great significance along the road toward a political solution to Cambodia.

Although difficulties are still hanging around, the fact that the SNC has been set up and put into operation is an initial victory of great importance. This reflects the principle that Cambodia's internal affairs must be solved by the Cambodians themselves. Neighboring countries, the countries that served as cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and a large number of other countries have expressed their welcome and support to all the decisions made by the SNC. Singapore's prime minister recently said that the end of the Cambodia conflict will eliminate an important cause for regional tension and instability and will open up prospects for effective economic cooperation between ASEAN and Indochina.

Obviously, a peaceful, independent, neutral Cambodia having friendly and cooperative relations with other countries in the region and the rest of the world is the common desire of the peoples in various countries and is compatible with the epochal trend of development.

Do Muoi Speech at Provincial Congress

Part One

BK2308105191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Aug 91

["First part" of speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at Hai Hung provincial second round party organization congress held from 15-17 August—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrade delegates,

Dear comrade veteran revolutionaries,

Dear comrades,

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly welcome the comrade delegates to this second-round party organization congress of Hai Hung, which is the first province to convene such a congress at the provincial level.

Dear comrades, for almost five years now, the party organization and people of Hai Hung Province have persisted in the renovation line patterned after socialism, have overcome numerous difficulties and challenges, have creatively applied the seventh party congress resolution and other resolutions of the party Central Committee to the concrete local conditions, and have brought about fine results in a number of aspects of social life.

It is encouraging to note that, while at certain times the weather conditions were unfavorable, the agricultural production in Hai Hung Province has continued to develop and make marked progress. The volume of grain and food supplies has increased considerably. The average increase in grain output is 250,000 tons per year and the province once reached a record grain output of 958,000 tons.

Animal husbandry develops well. The rearing of buffaloes, oxen, hogs, poultry, and fish is on the rise. Some industrial crops like jute, sedge, and peanuts have met part of the local and export demands.

Major central industrial establishments based in the province, like the Hoang Thach Cement Plant, the Pha Lai Hydroelectric Power Plant, the Hai Duong Water Pump Plant, and the Hai Duong Ceramicware Plant have all made new progress.

Generally speaking, industrial, small industrial, and handicraft sectors under local management are still fraught with many difficulties and their growth rates remain slow. Nonetheless, a number of positive changes have been effected by some industrial branches like rattan and jute processing, rice export, textile industry, garment making, leather goods manufacturing, and building materials production.

The production output of the non-state industrial sector has increased considerably. The irrigation and communications sectors, especially the rural communications sector, have made much progress.

The state-run trading sector has contained losses and has begun to operate profitably. Altogether, the marketing cooperatives and the state-run trading sector now account for 60 percent of the social market.

The export index has increased twofold compared with the last five years, creating conditions for importing agricultural materials so that production can be accelerated.

Financial, money, and credit services have all been revamped and renovated. Concentrated efforts have been made to invest in capital construction and to provide additional funds for production and business operations. Hai Hung is one of the few northern provinces that have contributed to capital construction.

Generally speaking, over the past several years, the livelihood of the majority of the people has been stabilized and improved in many aspects. Some of the people have enjoyed a good life. The people's intellectual standard has been enhanced. Importance has been attached to the people's cultural and spiritual lives. Progress has been made in the movement for democratization. Positive changes are taking place in the rural areas.

Noteworthy is the fact that regarding party-building work, the Hai Hung provincial party organization has, over many years, carried out this important task in a concentrated and resolute manner and has effected positive changes. This is demonstrated by the serious implementation of Resolution 4 of the Political Bureau and Resolution 5 of the party Central Committee regarding party-building work and the consolidation and purification of party organizations and the contingent of party members.

Generally speaking, the internal situation is stable. The militancy of many party organizations has been enhanced. Efforts have been made to reorganize the placement of key cadres in charge of the various echelons and sectors in accordance with the spirit of renovation. Importance has been attached to cadre planning. Disunity, localism, and sectionism are on the decline. The solidarity between party committee echelons and party organizations has been consolidated a step further.

These are the most important factors contributing to the results that the Hai Hung provincial party organization and people have achieved after nearly five years of implementing the renovation line.

On behalf of the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau, I warmly welcome the initial results achieved by the Hai Hung provincial party organization and people in socioeconomic development and party-building work. I am positive that these results will create new conditions for further consolidation of local political security and socioeconomic development in the coming years.

Dear comrades, in the process of implementing renovation, Hai Hung has displayed shortcomings and weaknesses, and has also faced new problems. This calls for outstanding efforts to overcome them.

The political report submitted to the congress has already covered all these problems. I only would like to call your attention to a number of points as follows:

First, the economic capabilities have not yet been strongly developed and there still exists a serious state of confusion when it comes to management of the multisectorial economy. Agricultural production still bears the imprints of a self-sufficient economy and its strength has not yet been fully developed and stabilized. The ratio of agricultural products and goods remains low. Product quality and economic efficiency are not high.

The drastic shift to the commodity economy to meet local and international market demands remains a major problem for the Hai Hung provincial party organization and people to surmount. The processing industry is still weak. Much work remains to be done in the selection of trades, occupations, technology, and markets.

Generally speaking, the export of agricultural products does not generate profits because product quality is not high enough to compete in the markets, especially the world market.

Handicrafts and small industrial and traditional industrial occupations in the rural areas have either sunk into oblivion or are in poor shape.

There is an objective cause here. Yet it would be inadequate if we neglected the subjective cause which is the failure on the part of the province to establish appropriate guidelines, policies, and measures to deal with problems properly. The state-run economy has not been reorganized and rearranged quickly or resolutely. We are still in the process of fumbling along and experimenting both in terms of selecting bases, trades, products, organizational forms and management procedures. Generally speaking, the state-owned economy of Hai Hung Province is still facing many acute difficulties and ordeals, especially as far as it concerns the sectors of engineering and consumer and export goods production.

As regards the cooperative economy, especially in agriculture, we are still fumbling to find ways to renovate its mechanism which caused declining operations and poor management of assets and funds, and led to widespread accumulated and serious debts.

State economic management, particularly over the non-state economic sectors, is still weak, inexperienced, and full of loopholes. Trade activities have burst out while production remains low. Business is conducted at variance with law. Tax evasion and cheating prevails.

Secondly, the situation of security, order, and public safety remains complex. Disputes over land still occur. A mass movement has not been launched to assure security, order, and public safety. Superstition tends to develop, particularly in rural areas. Income and the living standards of people of all strata differ largely from one another. Cadres, civil servants, workers, and pension recipients still face many difficulties in their everyday lives. Many of them are still unemployed.

Thirdly, although much effort has been exerted in building the party, there has been no steady and strong change in this respect. In general, party members are numerous but their quality and militancy remains low. Some party bases are still weak because of prolonged disunity. The management and education of party members is still loose. Self-criticism and criticism is by and large poorly conducted in party chapters. The organization and cadre tasks have not met the requirements of renovation. Machinery remains cumbersome with a large, ineffective staff. The scope and procedures of the leadership in party organizations, the administration, and mass organizations have not been renovated up to par in several aspects, especially at district and grassroots levels.

Party organizations in many localities countrywide still assume the work for the administration and mass organizations. At the same time, as a result of the failure to clearly define the party's role in political leadership, there is a tendency toward liberalism or toward lowering the party's role of leadership, especially in such party bases as enterprises, schools, and hospitals.

We must pay attention to the following questions: Why have only 20-25 percent of the party members in the provinces truly brought into play their exemplary vanguard role? Why is the number of newly recruited party members decreasing every year and why have some members asked to discontinue their membership? How can we rejuvenate and develop the vitality of party organizations and enhance the quality of party life activities and militancy of party chapters? Our duty is to proceed from realities to find solutions to these problems. Proceeding from the main good points, shortcomings, and aforementioned real status, the provincial party organization congress should profoundly analyze the causes.

I agreed with you that there are objective circumstances and causes such as the impact of the international and domestic situations; the leadership, guidance, and management of the party Central Committee and the state; and the shifting of the economic structure and management mechanism. Moreover, we need definite conditions and time to carry out renovation uniformly, comprehensively, and positively. To clearly point out the objective circumstances and causes does not mean finding a way to justify nor an attempt to shirk responsibility. It is meant to make everyone realize that this is a difficult and complex revolutionary undertaking that we cannot complete overnight in a hasty, impatient, and voluntaristic manner.

In our party organization congress, we should focus on analyzing and clarifying the subjective causes by posing these questions: How have party committees, the administration, committees, and sectors exercised their leadership, guidance, and management along the line of renovation? Is there anything creative in the policies and operating methods? What are the troubles, loopholes, and deviations in these policies and methods? Have we handled the issues of organization, guidance, implementation, control, supervision, and preliminary and recapitulative reviews in a timely, practical, and effective manner in order to avoid formalism? Why have the mass motivation and party tasks progressed slowly even though the party Central Committee resolution has already been adopted? Whose responsibility is it? The objective evaluation of the operational standard and ability, quality, and lifestyle of cadres is also a matter worthy of concern. There are still many other questions.

Only on the basis of profoundly analyzing the causes, first of all the objective ones, in the spirit of scrupulous self-critism and criticism, can we have a base for formulating effective solutions.

Part Two

BK2208113191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Aug 91

["Second Part" of Address by CPV General Secretary Do Muoi at the second round congress of Hai Hung provincial party organization held 15-17 August—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades: To define the main guidelines, tasks and objectives of Hai Hung Province for the five-year 1991-95 period, we are required first of all to study and understand thoroughly and apply creatively the Seventh Party Congress resolutions. This is a fundamental issue of prime importance which ensures the development of localities in the right direction, conforms with the general development of the entire country, and guarantees the consistency of the political report of the provincial party organization with the Seventh Party Congress documents. Moreover, we must proceed from the specific conditions—both favorable and difficult—and characteristics of localities, from achievements and failures through various tenures of the party organization, and from good points and shortcomings in leadership, guidance, organization, and implementation over the five years of implementing the renovation line to formulate truly realistic resolutions of the party organization.

This concept must be thoroughly understood not only throughout the process of preparing the resolutions but also during debate to adopt resolutions at our congress. Not only have we to apply this concept to the provincial party congress but we must also pay due attention to it in the congresses at lower levels.

First of all, I want to talk about the struggle objectives of Hai Hung province for the five-year 1991-95 period. In general, the objectives have been set forth on the basis of taking into account balances between the requirements of maintaining stability and carrying out development and the capability of fulfilling the requirements; between the comprehensive and uniform development and the selection of directions and sectors to be given priority; and between the full exploitation of currently available capacities and potentials and the stirring up of integrated strength once correct guidelines and policies have been adopted.

These objectives reflect the high militancy of the party organization and people in the province. These objectives are, namely, by 1995, the rice-equivalent grain production volume is to reach 1.1 million tonnes or the average annual increase of 30,000 tonnes, the value of export quota is to reach $US28.3 million, the population growth rate will decrease to 0.006 per year, and there will be more jobs for workers. These are norms that were never set in previous five-year plans of Hai Hung Province. In this respect, I welcome your plans and support you, comrades, because they manifest the determination of the party organization and people in the province to struggle step by step in order to extricate yourselves from poverty and backwardness.

I particularly wonder whether Hai Hung Province could set higher some of the struggle objectives? I am thinking of the production of grain, pork, industrial crops and secondary food crops, because I see that the province still has many great latent potentials and capacities which have not been exploited—namely land, industrial installations, geographical positions, communications, tourism, foreign economic relations in the new situation, and manpower.

In order to make the set objectives realistic and create a high degree of unanimity, I proposed that the congress should focus on debating them in order to clarify the premises and conditions, and the effective policies and measures to implement them. Are the fundamental tasks and measures outlined in the political report correct and adequate? We should remember that more than anywhere else, here we must be creative in seeking and strenuously pondering the concretization of lines, in order to find out adequately scientific and realistic measures to attain the set objectives.

Economically, the political report has been quite comprehensive. Yet we should concentrate on discussing the economy to expound what are the most basic and pressing issues to the party organization and people of Hai Hung Province. Where should we focus our effort to grasp and perform well the key tasks in order to accelerate the entire movement to enrich our native place and country?

I would like to further suggest that you, comrades, reflect on the following issues:

1. Concerning economic structures

One of the guidelines for shifting our economic structures in the 1990's is to develop our agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in connection with the processing industry and the building of new rural areas. This is the task of prime importance to stabilize and develop the socioeconomic situation and the countryside, and to increase the speed and percentage of industrial development. On this basis, we will expand the service industry, an area that we have not taken seriously. How are we going to materialize this general concept to suit our province? Moreover, how will the structural division of sectors take place? We are talking about, namely, the relationship between growing grain and planting secondary and industrial food crops, and between crop cultivation and animal raising. Which main plants and animals will enrich Hai Hung Province?

Although it goes without saying that rice and pork are important to a plain province such as Hai Hung, which plants should we grow and which animals should we raise to make maximum use of land and crop seasons, especially the winter crops?; and which new jobs and trades should we establish in order to absorb more labor, thus helping change the economic structure? In industry, we must pay most attention to the processing industries, primarily those processing agricultural products. Which sectors and products should we focus on in order to achieve effective results and ensure the fulfillment of immediate needs while meeting the requirements of long-term development? The processing industry in Hai Hung Province is still very poor. It must be rebuilt. We must, of course, calculate our steps carefully and select the appropriate technology.

Some state-run economic installations are located in Hai Hung Province, through which arterial national lines of communications run. The provincial authorities should coordinate with, and lean on, these economic installations so that they actively help to develop the localities. One outlet for the Hai Hung provincial economy is to include itself in the strategy of common development of the Red River delta and the north as a whole. Hai Hung Province cannot advance through confining itself within its own boundaries. You must study and plan for labor sharing and cooperation with other provinces, particularly with cities and major industrial centers.

What products can Hai Hung Province receive while serving localities in the region? In which areas and projects, and for what products, can it have alliances, joint ventures, and cooperation with other provinces? How should it set about bringing into play its advantageous position over other provinces in the region?

The economy of Hai Hung province must be open to the region, the entire country, and even foreign countries. I suggest that you, comrades, exchange your views in order to reach a specific and well calculated project in connection with this issue.

2. Concerning the application of science and advanced technology to lower production costs and increase the quality of products.

This is an important issue, considered by the Seventh Party Congress resolution as a primary national policy and having a direct impetus on the process of shifting economic structures in the direction of national industrialization.

Our congress should devote necessary time to debating this issue. The general guideline is that, while making the most use of currently available technologies, we must strive to selectively apply new technologies to crop cultivation, animal husbandry and the processing industry, particularly, as far as they concern exports. In this connection, on the one hand we must emphasize the improvement of traditional industries, making full use of the assistance of scientific and technical agencies at the central level and throughout the country. On the other, we must expand our relations with foreign markets in order to turn out competitive exports in terms of model and quality.

3. Concerning management mechanism.

The Seventh Party Congress stressed the need to continually eliminate the mechanism of bureaucratic centralism and subsidization and to shift to the market-oriented mechanism under state management control by law, plans, policies and other tools. To implement this task, the congress should pay attention to some of the most fundamental and pressing issues at present such as the renewal and rearrangement of state-run economic units.

Some of the state-run economic units in Hai Hung Province, especially in the trade sector, have been recently rearranged, initially to ensure effective business. We should generally review past experience in this sector and extend it to other domains. I only want to caution you about correctly understanding the leading role of the state-owned economy. Leading does not mean that the state-run economy must account for a very high percentage in the national economy. It does not mean that most of the means of production in the society must be concentrated in the state-run economy nor that the widespread expansion of the state-run economy must be extended to all sectors and domains.

The leading role of the state-run economy lies first of all in its occupation of the key positions in the national economy in order to operate in those areas and installations where other economic sectors are not authorized or because of the conditions are unable to operate. Its role is to rally and control other economic sectors and establish socialist orientations for the development of these sectors.

In this spirit, I suggest that you discuss and decide which state-run installations should change the forms of their business and ownership or should be disbanded while concentrating on developing by all means those necessary installations.

Concerning the collective economy, the seventh party congress resolution advocated that it should be continually renovated and perfected, particularly with regard to agricultural cooperatives. This is currently the weakest point and the most troublesome task in the leadership and guidance in Hai Hung Province as well as in many other localities.

Many cooperatives have lost their operational guidelines. This is because the old management mechanism has been eliminated while the new one has not taken shape adequately. The guidelines for renovating the management mechanism in agricultural cooperatives have been defined in the seventh party congress documents. They are aimed at ensuring the independence of cooperative members' households while intensifying the role of management committees in the managerial and operational control over production work, and at performing well the necessary service duties. Together with the administration and mass organizations, the cooperatives will implement social policies and build new countryside.

I believe that to a certain extent, Hai Hung Province has some model cooperatives conforming to the new management mechanism. The provincial authorities should provide guidance for generally and broadly reviewing, drawing on, and multiplying the experiences.

As regards the problem of land, after action has been taken to positively settle the dispute of ricefields and land, the number of burning issues in Hai Hung Province has decreased considerably. However, it does not mean that everything has been settled satisfactorily. In fact, the issue is still simmering in some localities with destabilizing factors that cannot be overlooked.

The seventh party congress asserts definitively that land and ricefields belong to the people and that they are allocated to the people for long-term use. In the near future, the state will promulgate a law stipulating the transfer of rights to use, inherit, and mortgage land. The important problem now is to consider the conditions for implementation and steps suitable to localities without causing disturbances, negativism, and instability. It is imperative to stop the decrease in cultivated land and severely deal with those who allocate, sell, grab, and use land at variance with the established principles.

Together with the too high population growth rate, the aforementioned practices have caused and are causing a decrease in the per capita area of cultivated land. We should be aware of the gravity of this problem in a simple province like Hai Hung as well as countrywide.

In shifting to the economy of commodities, markets play a very important role. We must act to have a correct knowledge of markets and create domestic and international markets. Markets exist objectively. The market mechanism is a combined evolution of such factors as prices, supply and demand, the purchasing power of money, and competition in accordance with the rules of goods-money relations. We cannot make light of markets but must actively use them. Yet, this is no reason to worship and consider them as everything. We must intensify the managerial role of the state at all levels in order to promote the good points and limit the negative aspect of the market mechanism, enabling it to serve ever better the tasks of socioeconomic development.

Part Three

BK2408140991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Aug 91

["Third and Last Part" of address by CPV General Secretary Do Muoi at the second round congress of Hai Hung provincial party organization from 15-17 Aug—read by announcer]

[Text] The seventh party congress' fundamental views on social policies are to emphasize the individual, unify economic growth with social justice and progress, and further accelerate scientific and technological education and training. This is to bring the strength of the human factor into play for the individual's benefit, considering economic development as the premise on which social justice and progress are achieved. At the same time, economic development will be stimulated if social policies are implemented well.

Our party's problem is finding the specific ways in which to combine economic and social policies. The provincial party organization's political report has already set some tasks on this. I only want to tell you what you can do immediately. That is to establish the social security fund and the fund for repaying and rewarding meritorious people of the revolution, and to build homes as token of affection for the surviving families of fallen heroes and the households of war invalids facing many difficulties. In conjunction with this, we should gradually alleviate poverty in rural areas and cities by giving relief aid and especially by creating conditions to help them progress.

The question of building a new countryside should also receive your attention during the congress and after. On the one hand, you should improve upon what has been achieved such as in building homes. About 70 percent of the province's roofs houses, schools, health stations, water wells, sanitation projects, rural roads, radio network, and so forth are tiled. On the other hand, we must continue to oppose bad mores, superstition, gambling and alcoholism, and cultivate good neighborliness for the difficult times, and to build new cultural families.

Party building is a major issue, and one that will determine the stability of the regime and the success of the renovation. You have already sufficiently dealt with this issue in your political report. I would like now to stress some fundamental and pressing issues of the party. As for renovating the scope and procedures of the party's leadership over the administration and mass organizations, the seventh party congress has already set forth the general views and principles. It stressed that in political renovation and the implementation of socialist democracy, the key question is to clearly define the functions and relations between the party and state, and front and mass organizations.

The problem posed to the party is how to properly concretize these views and principles. Experience has revealed that it is necessary to form and promulgate specific rules and regulations so that the relations between the party, administration, and mass organizations will suit the different levels, namely districts, villages, enterprises, hospitals, schools. This is to ensure that each organization can function according to its mission while coordinating and helping one another. This is a task that cannot be completed at once and we must constantly learn from what we are doing. The rearrangement, revamp and renewal of operations of various types of party organizations and bases to suit the needs of the renovation of the economic structure and management mechanism is a major party renewal and reorganization in order to increase its leadership capacity and its militancy.

There should be effective policies and measures to quickly overcome weak party organizations and bases, and party committees and chapters that are seriously fragmented. We must do it in a way that will promote the proper leadership of party chapters while improving their scope of operations and procedures, practically and effectively, through increased criticism and by detecting and struggling against negative phenomena. If Hai Hung Province can perform this task well, many other localities can learn from it.

Since the party guides the administration, all cadres and party members irrespective of their position, must be exemplary citizens. Party members must consider serving the people and struggling for the party's ideal as their raison d'etre. They must struggle to comprehensively increase their knowledge to meet the needs of new tasks. If you, as cadres and party members, resign yourself to poverty and allow your families to incur debts and endure privations just because you do not know how to use your labor for production and business to enrich yourself and society, how can you then bring into play your role of leadership and good example. You should debate this issue thoroughly.

Enhancing the quality of party members is currently a pressing demand of Hai Hung provincial party organization as well as of the entire party. Our party organization must resolutely deal with those degenerate and deviant party members and those who are no longer able to set good examples. At the same time, outstanding people, particularly youths, must be attracted to the party. Only by doing so can we enhance the militant strength of the party and strengthen the people's confidence in the party.

In the revolution, cadres and the cadre task are always a fundamental and pressing demand. In the current situation, this demand becomes even more important and pressing. It calls for the renovation of viewpoints, methods, and organizations. We must seek ways to oppose conservatism and sluggishness and, at the same time, simplism and hastiness in renovating cadres and cadre tasks. Besides the political quality, loyalty, good ethics, honesty and cleanliness, the intellectual and organizational abilities of cadres are currently extremely important demands. As a result, we must raise the question of training principles and retraining as well as the question of rationally placing and employing cadres.

We must satisfactorily combine various generations of cadres, paying attention to young ones. Through the renovation process, we must screen and select cadres to ensure the fulfillment of current demands for cadres while making good preparations for future development.

Dear comrades: The second-round party congress at all levels holds a very important position. This is an opportunity to manifest that you have concentrated on thoroughly studying and applying the seventh party congress resolutions, and an occasion to formulate specific policies and measures to implement the resolutions. This is the time for electing a new party committee to reflect both continuity and successiveness while manifesting renovation as a nucleus of leadership to turn the party congress resolutions into realities in life.

With the guidance of the party Central Committee, the second-round party congress at all levels can be held either from lower to higher or vice versa, depending on the specific conditions in each locality.

In Hai Hung Province, we have chosen the way of holding congresses from higher down to lower levels, and we are also the first to hold the second-round provincial party congress in the country. Our congress was prepared earlier and quite carefully, both in terms of content and personnel matters. Through this congress, we should draw on experience immediately to provide good leadership and guidance for the party congresses at district and grassroots levels.

Through the preparations for the second-round party congress of Hai Hung Province and some other localities, we can initially draw the following conclusions worthy of attention:

The preparation of documents for party congresses at all levels must be based on a thorough knowledge of the major thoughts and viewpoints of the seventh party congress. At the same time, it must stem from the specific situation and characteristics of each locality and each party organization and chapter in the organization of the party, the administration, mass organizations, enterprises, schools, Armed Forces, mountainous regions, lowlands, rural areas and cities. Failing to do so, our resolutions will be generally vague and can not be implemented or will match in no way with the common objectives of the entire country.

In order to promote democracy and the intellect of cadres, party members and the people who make contributions to the documents of party congresses at all levels, there should be suitable forms to help cadres, party members and the people debate and contribute their views to the major contents of the draft resolutions.

The resolutions of party organizations will become realities only when they are materialized, organized, and implemented by the administration. As a result, leaders at all levels of the administration and sectors are responsible for making contributions to the draft resolutions. They should participate in the preparations for the second-round party congresses at all levels, and in the formulation of various socioeconomic programs for bringing the resolutions into life.

In determining objectives, although we have paid attention to their generality, we still should focus on the targeted points and should not set them too high because we will not have the capability of implementing them, thus causing suspicion among the masses. Nor should we lower them because doing so we will restrain the revolutionary movement of the people. We must pay special attention to the calculation of measures and facilities to implement the objectives. We should select the important key issues for debate and vote at the congress, and create high unanimity in knowledge and action.

In selecting party committee echelons, we must secure the set guidelines, structures, and criteria on the basis of ensuring democracy and solidarity. We should struggle to criticize localism, departmentalism, and individualism in selecting members for party committees. More than anywhere else are communists required to be fairer, cleaner, and more responsible in selecting party committee echelons and in performing the cadre task in general.

Dear comrades: The tasks of the party organization and people of Hai Hung Province in the next five year are very great and heavy. With singlemindedness among party members and the people, I am convinced that you will be able to surmount all difficulties and trials to victoriously implement the objectives and tasks set by your party organization congress, thus positively contributing to the implementation of common objectives and tasks of the entire country.

I wish you all good health. May the congress be a success!

Australia

Evans Indicates Moves To Recognize Baltics

BK2608071191 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has indicated that Australia might soon move to recognize the Baltic states. Senator Evans says western countries should be cautious about giving aid to the Soviet Union. More from Tony Hastings in Canberra.

[Begin Hastings recording] Senator Evans says Australia will recognize the Baltic states once it is satisfied the Baltic governments have effective control of their own territories and he says the rush of events are clearly moving that way.

On the weekend the federal opposition called for immediate recognition.

On the issue of aid to the Soviet Union, Senator Evans says the West is right to be cautious. He says aid should be tied to political reform and he also expressed concern about the size of the Soviet military budget. He says the Soviet Union does not have a coherent decision making process at either the union or republic level and large scale aid should not be granted until adequate arrangements are established. [end recording]

More on Baltic States

BK2608083791 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke says it is inevitable that Australia will recognize the independent Baltic states. Mr. Hawke says he wants Australia to be among the first countries to recognize the Baltic states following their declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. From Canberra foreign affairs correspondent Graeme Dobell.

[Begin Dobell recording] The prime minister said there was no question Australia would give diplomatic recognition to the Baltic states—Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

Mr. Hawke said the government was now looking at the mechanics of recognition. The foreign minister, Senator Evans, said Australia would move once it is satisfied the Baltic governments have effective control of their own territories.

Australia's parliamentary opposition said the government should recognize the Baltic states immediately. The opposition leader, Dr. Hewson, said Soviet central control had clearly collapsed and the three Baltic states had formally asserted their independence. Dr. Hewson said it was urgent for Australia to take a lead on recognizing their independence. [end recording]

Evans Welcomes Developments in Soviet Union

BK2508060191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Canberra, Aug 25 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans welcomed Sunday the apparent end of the influence of the Soviet Communist Party, following the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev as general secretary.

"The collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union is inevitable, overdue and welcome," he told reporters.

Evans said one of the priorities for Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin would be to resolve the question of independence for the Baltic states.

"We would call on Gorbachev and Yeltsin to fast-track the process through negotiation," he said.

Hawke Calls on EC To Save World Trade Talks

BK2608094391 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke has again appealed to the European Community [EC] to save the collapse of talks aimed at reforming world trade. Mr. Hawke told a meeting of cattle farmers in the northern city of Mount Isa that the EC was largely responsible for corruption of the international market in agricultural goods. He said the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of talks on world trade reform depended on the EC but time was running out.

[Begin Hawke recording] No one can afford a deal that perpetuates the gross waste of the world's scarce resources that presently occurs. The common agriculture policy of the EC, the [word indistinct] policy instigated by the United States to combat it, and on a lesser scale the import restrictions in Japan, Korea and other countries all add up to an intolerable situation for Australian primary producers. [end recording]

Fiji

3d Ranking Officer Resigns Due to Allegations

BK2508121091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Suva, Aug 25 (AFP)—Fiji's third ranking army officer Colonel Pio Wong said Sunday he had resigned following allegations of abuse of office.

Wong, who sent his resignation letter to president and commander in chief of the Fiji military forces Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau and Army Commander Brigadier-General Ratu Epeli Ganilau on Friday, refused to elaborate on why he had resigned.

Military sources said Wong was being investigated for abuse of office by allegedly sending soldiers to evict a tenant at apartments he owns here.

They said he was given an option to resign or face court martial.

Wong's resignation follows the suspension of four senior police officers two months ago for alleged abuse of office.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Leader To Seek UN Peace Force

BK2608072491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] The leader of the interim government on Bougainville says he will be pushing for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be deployed on the island during peace talks with Papua New Guinea this week.

Mr. Joseph Kabui said that the peace talks would not succeed unless there was agreement on deploying a peacekeeping force. He was speaking in the Solomon's capital, Honiara, ahead of his return to Bougainville, where the talks are due to begin on Wednesday [28 August].

Mr. Kabui said a lasting peace and the restoration of services on Bougainville hinged on a neutral peacekeeping force being stationed permanently on the island. He added that the deployment of such a force would allow a suitable environment for holding a referendum on the issue of independence. Mr. Kabui said that despite the failure of two previous peace agreements, Bougainville's interim government was ready to prove its readiness to solve its dispute with Port Moresby at the negotiating table.

Special Treatment of Rebels in Solomons Protested

BK2508060791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Honiara, Aug 25 (AFP)—The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government protested Sunday about free medical treatment for members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) within the Solomon Islands.

The Papua New Guinea High Commission here issued a protest note following a verbal expression of concern by Port Moresby to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week.

The Papua New Guinea Government said it was concerned that "the privilege of Bougainvilleans receiving assistance from the Solomon Islands strictly on humanitarian grounds now seems to have been extended to cover medical treatment for members of the BRA wounded during encounters with the PNG defence forces."

The statement expressed concern about what it described as "a rampant and massive propaganda campaign being carried out in the Solomon Islands on behalf of the BRA and its secessionist interim leadership."

It said it was concerned that the continued use of Solomon Islands by Bougainville secessionists as a safe haven could have adverse effects on relations between the two countries. The Solomon Islands has treated in the past three weeks three members of the BRA who had received gunshot wounds during a recent clash with Papua New Guinea defence forces on northern Bougainville.

The Solomon Islands Government said it had treated the three BRA members on humanitarian grounds and it could do the same for any members of the warring sides on the troubled island, where a secessionist war is in its third year.